

Pittsfield (MA) Parks Department Scrapbooks

Scanned through a Pittsfield Community
Preservation Act Grant 2021



Pittsfield Parks
Department
Scrapbook
2006

Pittsfield Winter Queen Contest applications available

Winter Sports Committee is holding its 62nd annual Queen's Conthe chance to receive scholarship test now through Dec. 1.

Applications are available at all All applications must be handthree Pittsfield high schools. The opportunity is one to be- by 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. come part of a community-based Information: Michelle Hayes, organization that gives back to the secretary of the Pittsfield Winter citizens of Pittsfield through a Sports Committee, (413) 329number of winter sports events put 3474.

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield on from January through March. The opportunity also includes money for college.

> the slick track. delivered to the Springside House

Winter Carnival offers cures for cabin fever 3

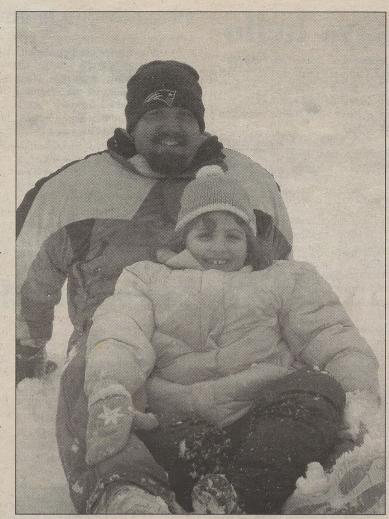
By SHARON SMULLEN PITTSFIELD — On crisp winter mornings, the wind blows flurries of crystalline flakes across the snow-blanketed surface of Onota Lake. Long the haunt of flannelled ice fishermen toting plastic buckets and hefty augers, for one day of the winter Onota Lake belongs to families, there for the fun of the annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival, and a day out on the lake like no other.

Now in its 61st year, the popular annual event has attracted thousands of local residents and seasonal visitors since its inception, from babes in back-carriers to gray-haired grannies. It celebrates the rich recreational resources of the region, with activities spread out across Pittsfield, and beyond the town boundaries to Becket and

As James McGrath, Parks Department director of community services, explained, "The Winter Carnival started as a way to help locals with cabin-fever during the height of the winter season, and has continued to this day as a way to celebrate winter. In fact, the Pittsfield Winter Carnival is one of the longest running winter carnivals in New England.' More than 400 people regularly

attend the annual Family Day on Saturday, Jan. 28 (postponed from Jan. 21 due to ice conditions) — enticed by a fun-filled program of activities and contests. Intrepid ice golfers follow brightly colored golf balls across the frozen lake course. Horseshoes are flung with enthusiasm around a spike hammered into the ice while redcheeked youngsters strap on skates and race with frosty breath around

On a snowy slope, an electronic scoreboard sits poised to record the fastest run as sledders young and old barrel down the hill on brightly colored inner tubes, saucers and sleds, a mound of packed snow waiting at the base to steer them to sitory sculptures. Across the ice, mony at 2 p.m.. As well as sled, rescheduling.) Registration is at 11



Nick Smith and his daughter, Mara Smith, 6, of Copake Falls, N.Y.,

enjoy sledding at Monument Mountain High School on Monday. A host of winter activity will be on tap at Pittsfield's Winter Carnival a safe and smiling stop. high-flying kites swoop and soar Alongside the lake, the jingle of like a flock of exotic, multicolored harness bells heralds the sleigh birds, highlighted against the low

shuttle from the parking area, led winter sun. by a team of gentle giant draft Family Day festivities will take horses. Nearby, a mountain range place at Controy Pavilion in of snow piles is magically trans-Burbank Park by Onota Lake formed, as entire families wielding (enter from Valentine Road), startshovels and spray bottles of coling with registration at 10 a.m. and ored dyes create imaginative, tran- concluding with an awards cere-

there will be a snow sculpture contest (sign up on the day), ice fish- the location for cross-country ski ice, horse-drawn sleigh rides and kite flying.

Inside the heated pavilion, facepainting and a clown will add to the fun, with free hot dogs and hot cocoa available for children to chase away the chills, and balloons for everyone to take home. Winter Carnival Queen contestants will be on hand to sell commemorative buttons, and at 2, contest winners will receive their well-earned trophies.

"This annual celebration includes a variety of exciting and fun-filled events that embrace Pittsfield's heritage and highlight its tradition of winter sports," said McGrath. "As always, all of the family-oriented events are free."

He stressed that on-ice activities are always dependent on suitable weather conditions, to ensure the safety of participants.

the many Winter Carnival events from Pittsfield schools. that will take place during January and February.

Junior skiers of all levels of ability can showcase their skills on Meet, taking place at Bousquet Ski Area on Dan Fox Drive. Registration is at 9 a.m. and racing at 10 a.m., with divisions for children of all ages. Everyone is invited to participate in toboggan races at Osceola Park on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (registration until 12:30 p.m.).

On Saturday, Feb. 11, a funfilled afternoon of sledding for all different twist with the "Anything Goes Sled Races." From bathtubs to seed bags, snow shovels to cardboard boxes, contestants will be limited only by their imaginations and ingenuity. (This event has 499-9343, or visit www.cwnibeen moved from its original date of Jan. 28 due to the Family Day

snowshoe and ice skating races, a.m. and races start at noon. Canterbury Farm in Becket is

ing derby, horseshoes and golf on races on Sunday, Feb. 12, starting at 10 a.m. (registration at 9). The event is open to skiers of all ages. The Winter Carnival concludes on Saturday, Mar. 4, with the Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships, starting at 1 p.m. at

> tators are admitted free). Throughout the season, a bevy of young hopefuls will be selling carnival buttons as they chase the dream of being crowned Carnival Queen at the Coronation Ball at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Berkshire Hills Country Club. Tickets cost \$7 per person and doors open at 7 p.m.

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Skating Rink in North Adams (spec-

The design for this year's button was created by Chris White, a 12th-grader from Taconic High School, whose illustration was chosen out of some 300 entries The Family Day is just one of submitted by children of all ages

Said McGrath, "All spectators and event participants are encouraged to purchase and wear an official Winter Carnival button to Sunday, Feb. 4, at the City Ski show their support for the Winter Carnival and for the all-volunteer Winter Sports Committee. Buttons can be purchased from the Winter Carnival Queen contestants and at most events. All proceeds from button sales support the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee."

McGrath was quick to point out his appreciation for the committee volunteers — some of whom have been involved for nearly 50 years ages at Osceola Park will take on a — as they work to make the carnival the highlight of the Pittsfield winter season.

For further information and directions to venues, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 413cholls.com/carnival.



Molly Northrup, left, is the 2006 Winter Carnival Queen, and Erica

Aldam is the 2006 Lady-in-Waiting.

Pittsfield

2006 Winter Carnival Queen is crowned

PITTSFIELD — The 61st annual judging, each contestant must sell al Winter Carnival held its Queen's 1,000 Winter Carnival Buttons. The Coronation Ball on Feb. 18 at Queen and Lady-in-Waiting are Berkshire Hills Country Club on selected by three impartial judges Benedict Road. Molly Northrup, on poise, appearance, personality, 17, of Pittsfield and a senior at expression and the understanding Pittsfield High School, was crown- of the Winter Carnival activities. ed 2006 Winter Carnival Queen by The sale of the buttons is a septhe 2005 Winter Carnival Queen arate contest and has no bearing Robyn Backer.

a senior at Pittsfield High School fund the winter events of the was crowned 2006 Lady-in-Waiting Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee.

The 2005 Lady-in-Waiting, Melissa Lussier, was unable to attend the Also recognized was the top but-

ton seller, Caitlyn Bertoldi, 17, of Pittsfield and a senior at Taconic High School, who sold a total of 2,178 buttons. Overall, 11,724 buttons were sold by the contestants. The Miss Congeniality recipient,

chosen by the contestants, was Brittany Whittaker, 17, of Pittsfield and a senior at Pittsfield High Scholarships will be given to the Queen, the Lady-in-Waiting and

the top button seller. A crowd of 175 attended the event. In attendance for the 30th anniversary of her own coronation was the 1976 Queen, Pamela Ber-

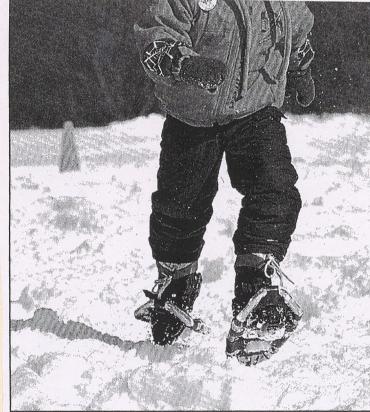
toldi Delmolino. In order to be eligible for the

on the selection of the Queen or Erica Aldam, 17, of Pittsfield and the Lady-in-Waiting. The proceeds

> Learn T'ai Chi.....

at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts

Classes starting March 6, 2006 5:30-6:30 every Monday evening for 8 weeks Call: 1-413-446-0534 email: JimPullaro@msn.com



Pittsfield Winter Carnival kicks off after weather woes

Salatino said.

"We always have a lot of fun why not?" she added. here," said Dixon Rice of Pittsfield, who was helping his eight- city ski races at Bousquet Ski Area year-old son, Patrick, sculpt a car on Saturday, and toboggan races out of a frozen mound of snow. "We like to be outdoors and it "Anything Goes" sled race will beats last year when the tempera- take place at Osceola Park on ture was seven degrees."

Patrick's older sister Emily, 10, was working on a nearby snow mound with her 11-year-old friend Alice O'Connor, and Alice's mothure skate.

won second place," Alice said. "We're trying to go for first this year." Trophies and ribbons were award-

ed to the first, second and third place finishers in snow sculpting and kite flying. Emily's brother wandered over to see what his sister was doing.

"No stealing secrets," Emily said. Wanda Prentice of Pittsfield, her four-year-old son Anthony and his friend Kyle Crocker, were busy playing horseshoes, sliding the ushaped object along the ice towards a nearby pole. Between throws, Anthony busied himself hitting a the stick resembled hockey more or at (413) 496-6224.

Timothy Carroll, 6, runs to the finish line in the snowshoe races during the Pittsfield Winter Carnival at Onota Lake yesterday.

"We play them all," Wanda said, youngsters had already signed up when asked what activities her son to participate in the events 90 min- likes. "Anthony did the snowshoe utes after the activities began, race, sliding golf... he has a blast." "On a gorgeous day like this,

> Next week's events include the at Osceola Park on Sunday. An Sunday, Feb. 11.

No speed skating

Speed skating, one of the Winter Carnival's signature events, will er, Kris. They used plastic snow not take place this year, the first shovels as sculpting tools, whack- time in 43 years that it hasn't ing them loudly against the frozen occurred, Peaslee said. Peaslee canvas as they tried to create a fig-said the national speed skating organization has scheduled an "We did it the last two years, and event for the same day in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The Winter Carnival was unable to move the event to another day, because additional ice time at the Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink in North Adams, where the event takes place, was unavailable

"That was the oldest continuous indoor [speed skating] event in the country," said Peaslee, a speed skating official who was part of the officiating crew at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. He said the Winter Carnival will try and hold the speed skating again next year.

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached golf ball, but his technique with at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com

Frozen fun begins 1/29/66

By Tony Dobrowolski

kshire Eagle Staff PITTSFIELD ased on last week's weather, they had prepared for the worst.
"There were going to be things like snowshoes on grass," Pittsfield Winter Carnival committee member Julie Salatino said yesterday.

Those preparations were set in motion after Family Day, the Pittsfield Winter Carnival's traditional opening event, was postponed from last week until yesterday due to a lack of snow.

But it snowed on Monday, and that storm provided just enough white stuff to transform Burbank Park and Onota Lake into the winter wonderland it normally resembles at this time of the year.

That meant the 61st annual Winter Carnival began the way it always does, with parents and their children participating in such traditional activities as sledding, snowshoeing, kite flying and snow sculpting. There were also winter versions of two summer activities, golf and horsehoes, with both taking place on the ice.

"We're not very good in the summer," said Margaret O'Brien of Pittsfield, who was standing in the snow on the frozen lake, a golf club in her hands. "Why not

try it on the ice?" Skating was the only scheduled athletic activity that didn't take place. "The ice is not good for skating

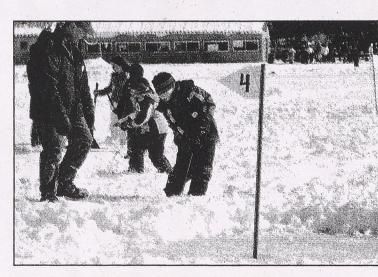
because it's mushy," Salatino said. A hot air balloon demonstration was also canceled. Committee member Carl Peaslee said that if the event took place, it would startle the horses that had been brought in to pull a sleigh used for hay

rides around the park. Jim McGrath, the city's Director of Community Services, said between 750 and 1,000 families usually participate in Family Day activities. Around 100

CARNIVAL, continued on B4



Photos by Caroline Bonnivier / Berkshire Eagle Staff



Above, Caitlyn Bertoldi, 17, decorates the snow sculpture crown that she and the other Winter Carnival Queen contestants made at the Pittsfield Winter Carnival at Onota Lake yesterday afternoon. Working on the sculpture at far right is Jenn Ryan, 17, as Crystal Sidway, 17, center, looks on. The girls used Winter Carnival buttons and condiments such as mustard and ketchup to decorate the crown. Left, Jameson Baity, 8, plays a round of ice golf with his father, Tim Baity.

Winter Carnival hampered by heat

By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The warm ages. winter weather continues to dis-Winter Carnival's schedule.

today, has been rescheduled place Jan. 28 instead. for Saturday, March 4. The The Anything Goes Sled Registration at Bousquet 11, at Osceola Rark. begins at 9 a.m., with the races set to start at 10. The races

will be conducted in categories for youngsters of all

This is the second time the rupt the 61st annual Pittsfield weather has caused a carnival event to be rescheduled. Fam-The toboggan race at Osceola ily Day activities, originally Park, scheduled to take place scheduled for Jan. 21, took

city ski meet, however, will Races, which also were posttake place as scheduled to-poned Jan. 21, have been day at Bousquet Ski Area. rescheduled for Saturday, Feb.

Unseasonable warmth delays Winter Carnival events

CARNIVAL from B1

Winter Carnival's signature events, Berkshire Hills Country Club. have been canceled for the first Doors open at 7 p.m. time in 43 years. Tentatively sched- For further information, call the uled for March 4 at the Vietnam Pittsfield Department of Com-Veterans' Skating Rink in North munity Services at (413) 499-9342 Adams, the championships had to or visit www.pittsfieldparks.org. be canceled when another race Tony Dobrowolski can be reached was scheduled that day, and the at tdobrowolski@berkshireeasle.com carnival committee was unable to or (413) 496-6224.

obtain ice time on another date. The Winter Carnival Queen The Pittsfield Short Track Speed Coronation Ball is still scheduled Skating Championships, one of the for Saturday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. at

Sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, Inc. of the Department of Community Services, Parks & Recreation For more information call 413-499-9343 or visit

www.pittsfieldparks.org or www.cwnicholls.com/Carnival

Saturday, Jan. 28 • Family Day

Meet the Queen Contestants • Button Sales Snowshoe Races • Sled Races Ice Skating Races · Snow Sculpture Contest Horseshoes • Golf On Ice • Ice Fishing Derby Face Painting · Haywagon Rides · Kite Flying Free Balloons • Free Refreshments

Controv Pavilion • Burbank Park Onota Lake (please enter from Valentine Rd.) 10 AM to 3 PM • Registration: 10 AM - 12:30 PM Competitions: 10 AM - 1:30 PM · Awards: 2 PM

Saturday, Feb 11

Anything Goes Sled Races • All Ages • Osceola Park Registration: 11 AM • Races 12-3 PM

Feb. 4 - City Ski Meet - Classes For All Kids - Bousquet Ski Area • Feb. 5 - Toboggan Races - All Ages - Osceola Park Feb. 12 - Cross Country Ski Races - All Ages - Canterbury Farm, Becket • Feb. 18 - Queen's Coronation Ball - Berk. Hills Country Club Feb. 18 - Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships - Vietnam Veterans Skating Rink, North Adams

Ryan, Caitlyn Bertoldi, Erica Aldam and Tonya Street.

On the Web: www.BerkshireEagle.com

THE DETKSTITES

The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, January 27, 2006 — B7

Carnival Queen contest begins

PITTSFIELD — The 61st annu- go to http://www.pittsfieldparks.org/. ■ Molly Northrup, daughter of until Feb. 11. Each contestant will 499-9343. be required to sell 1,000 buttons.

The contest will culminate at the queen will be chosen.

row at Onota Lake.

ice, an ice fishing derby, hay wagon career in nursing. balloons and refreshments.

al Winter Carnival Queen contest Questions about the Winter Car- Ann and Shaun Northrup of Pittskicked off Jan. 8. The nine queen nival can be addressed at the Defield, a 17-year-old senior at Pittscontestants will be selling buttons partment of Community Services, field High. She plans to attend throughout Berkshire County Parks and Recreation, at (413) Champlain College in Burlington,

Winter Carnival Queen's Ball on Coury and James Aldam of Pitts- Pittsfield, a 17-year-old senior at Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Berkshire field, a 17-year-old senior at Pitts- Taconic High. She plans to attend Hills Country Club where the field High School. She would like to Westfield State College to pursue pursue a career in fashion design. a degree in criminal justice.

will be held this winter. The first kowski of Pittsfield, a 17-year-old Pittsfield, a 17-year-old senior at event will be Family Day tomor- senior at Taconic High School. She Taconic High. She plans to attend would like to pursue a law career. college and pursue a legal degree.

will include snowshoe races, sled Lori and Edward Bertoldi of Dawn and Jeff Barbieri of races, ice skating races, snow sculp- Pittsfield, a 17-year-old senior at Pittsfield, an 18-year-old senior at rides, and kite flying contest, free Mallory Brindle, daughter of and someday opening a spa.

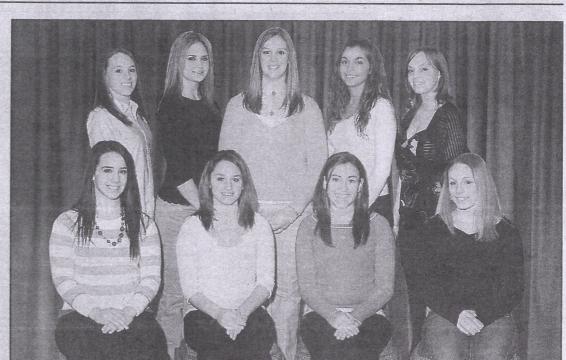
Lisa and John Brindle of Pittsfield, Brittany Whittaker, daughter The event is free of charge and a 17-year-old senior at St. Joseph of Lynn and Michael Whitaker of open to the public, although an adult Central High School. She hopes to Pittsfield, a 17-year-old senior at must accompany children. For a perform in a Broadway play and Pittsfield High. She plans to make chedule of all of the events, please pursue a career in banking.

Vt., and become a radiologist.

Jennifer Ryan, daughter of Erica Aldam, daughter of Lori Judy Cook and Tom Ryan of

The sale of the buttons supports Michelle Wojtkowski, daugh- Crystal Sidway, daughter of the Winter Carnival events, which ter of Deborah and Michael Wojt- Deborah Boos and Gary Sidway of

ture contest, horseshoes, golf on Taconic. She plans on pursuing a Taconic High. She plans on studying to become a massage therapist



Pictured are the 2006 Pittsfield Winter Carnival queen contestants. Seated, from left to right: Brittany Whittaker, Mallory Brindle, Michelle Wojtkowski and Crystal Sidway. Standing: Molly Northrup, Jennifer

For pre-tweens (ages 6 to a): 1110 Pittsfield Parks Department will hold its annual Learn-to-Skate program for ages 5 and up Tuesday

VACATION, continued on B6 VACATION from B1

through Friday from 11:45 to 12:45 at the Pittsfield Boys' and Girls' Club rink on Melville Street. The cost of the program is \$25 per person (\$50 family maximum charge). Skates will be available at no extra charge. Registration required. Information: Parks Department at (413) 499-9343 or www.pittsfield.

The Pittsfield Gazette January 12, 2006

Family day kicks off annual winter carnival on January 21

On Saturday, January 21 the Win- Northeast. ter Sports Committee will launch the This year, Family Day will have "but we always seem to get by. We

Sports Committee is what came out balloons.

ily based and it's something for Pitts- and open to the public. field to be proud of," he said.

been volunteers for the winter carni- The buttons were designed by Taconic volunteers to join the committee and

By Catherine Wojtkowski of winter sports in Pittsfield and the said Julie Salatino, vice chair of the

61st Pittsfield Winter Carnival with such activities as the ice fishing have actually had snow brought in derby, sled races, meeting the queen for family day from ski areas." for a winter carnival. The Winter flying, and free refreshments and on Saturday, January 28 (Free).

Now, 61 years later, the Winter Controy Pavilion at Burbank Park February 4 (Free). Sports Committee is carrying on the on Onota Lake from 10 a.m. to 3 • Toboggan races at Osceola Park Jim McGrath, community service 12:30 p.m. Competitions are from 10 day, February 5 (Free).

The Pittsfield Winter Carnival is (Free). and will continue to be until Sunday 18. (Admission is \$7). Pat and her husband, Carl, have February 5. They are fifty cents each. "We are always looking for new

In 1984 the committee dedicated "The conditions are always a worry field tradition into the future," Salathe winter carnival to the Peaslee's in Berkshire County. Is there going tino said. For volunteer information in recognition of their many years to be ice for skating and ice fishing? call the Pittsfield parks department on the committee and their support Will there be snow for sled races?" at 499-9343.

Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee

In 1946, the superintendent of contestants, button sales, snowshoe Other events included in the 61st anparks and recreation for the city races, ice skating races, snow sculp- nual Pittsfield Winter Carnival are: of Pittsfield, Jackson Perry, had an ture contest, horseshoes, golf on ice, Anything goes sled races at idea to recruits citizen volunteers face painting, hay wagon rides, kite Osceola Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

 City ski meet at Bousquet Ski Family day will be held at the Area starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday,

p.m. Registration is from 10 a.m. to from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sun-

director, looks forward to this year's a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the awards will • Cross country ski races at Canwinter carnival. "The carnival is fam- take place at 2 p.m. All events are free terbury Farm in Becket, registration is at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 12

Pat Peaslee says that "it's the partly funded by the button sales of • The queens' coronation ball at the friendly people" that keep her com- the queen contestants. Buttons are on Berkshire Hills Country Club, doors ing back and "it helps make the winter sale now from the queen contestants open at 8 p.m. on Saturday, February

High School senior Chris White. help us continue this wonderful Pitts-

The Pittsfield Gazette January 12, 2006

61st Annual Pittsfield

Sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, Inc. of the Department of Community Services, Parks & Recreation

For more information call 413-499-9343 or visit www.pittsfieldparks.org or www.cwnicholls.com/Carnival Saturday, Jan. 21 • Family Day

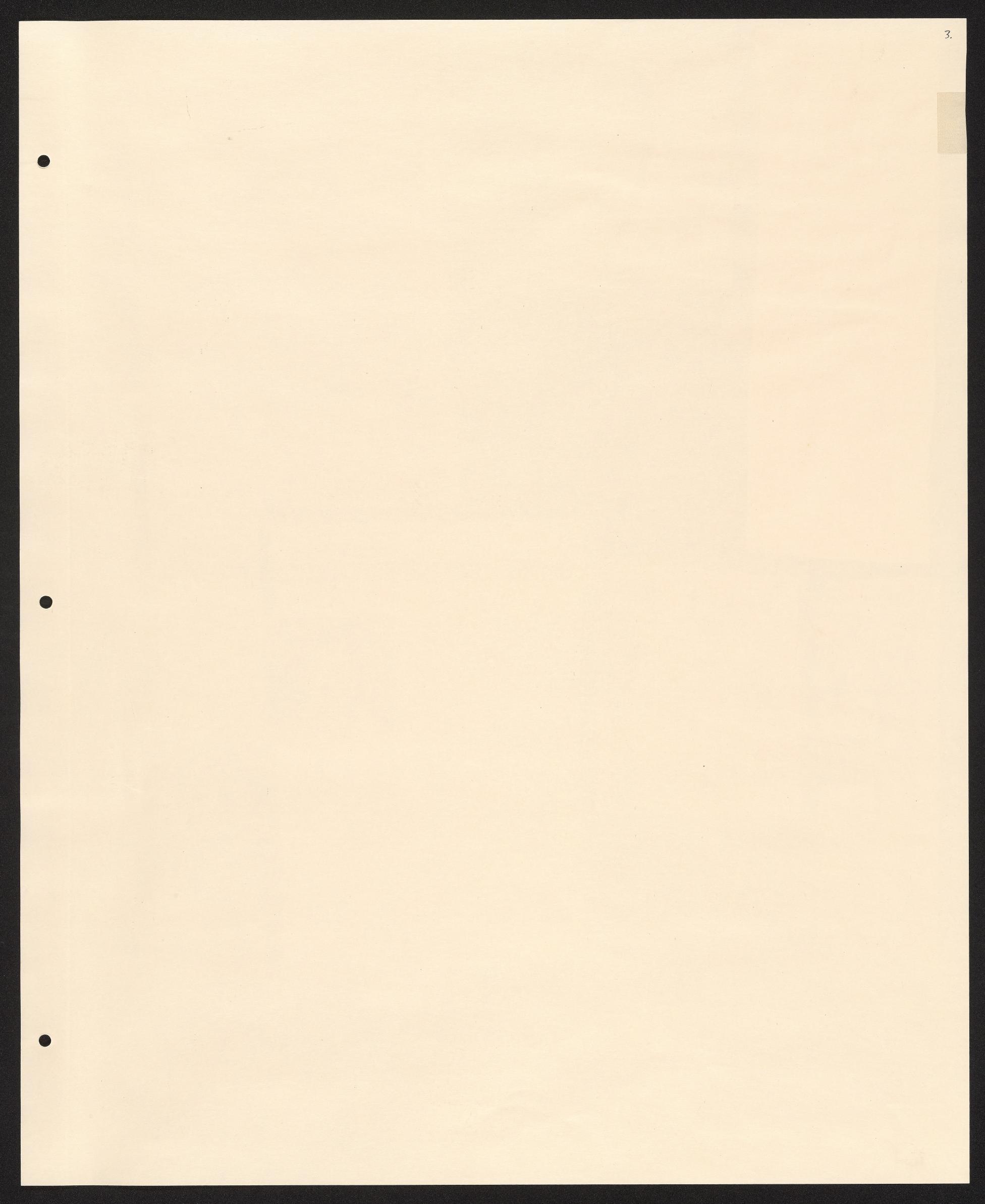
Meet the Queen Contestants • Button Sales Snowshoe Races · Sled Races Ice Skating Races • Snow Sculpture Contest Horseshoes • Golf On Ice • Ice Fishing Derby Face Painting • Haywagon Rides • Kite Flying Free Balloons • Free Refreshments

Controy Pavilion • Burbank Park Onota Lake (please enter from Valentine Rd.) 10 AM to 3 PM • Registration: 10 AM - 12:30 PM Competitions: 10 AM - 1:30 PM • Awards: 2 PM

Saturday, Jan. 28

Anything Goes Sled Races • All Ages • Osceola Park Registration: 11 AM • Races 12-3 PM

Feb. 4 - City Ski Meet - Classes For All Kids - Bousquet Ski Area • Feb. 5 Toboggan Races - All Ages - Osceola Park Feb. 12 - Cross Country Ski Races - All Ages - Canterbury Farm, Becket • Feb. 18 - Queen's Coronation Ball - Berk. Hills Country Club Feb. 18 - Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships - Vietnam Veterans Skating Rink, North Adams



Police say dealer sold crack at park

Man wanted in 3 states

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — Despite pending cases in three states, George Chapman went to Springside Park Wednesday night to sell crack cocaine, police said. His ride into the park was more pleasant than the ride out.

Police arrested Chapman and two other men following the drug sale, the third drug transaction involving Chapman and a confidential informant that had been set up by the Berkshire County Drug Task Force in the last two

Chapman, 20, of Wilson Street, pleaded not guilty yesterday when he was arraigned on three counts of distribution of crack cocaine, and one count of committing a drug violation within a drug-free

school zone. Assistant District Attorney Jay Green asked the court to set bail for Chapman at \$2,500 cash, but District Court Judge Alfred A. Barbalunga increased the amount to \$10,000 cash or surety after being told the defendant's recent criminal history. He also scheduled a pretrial hearing for May 3.

Probation Officer John Lander said Chapman also faces federal drug charges in Vermont, and is wanted in Pennsylvania where he is charged with aggravated assault and making terroristic threats. A warrant had also been issued for after he failed to pay a \$100 fine was the driver of the Explorer stemming from a 2003 arrest on drug, fugitive from justice, and motor vehicle charges.

ago," Lander told the court, refer- or at (413) 496-6224.

February, if he had paid the \$100 he would be done. He doesn't show up in court."

According to Green, the Berkshire County Drug Task Force set up three drug transactions between Chapman and a confidential informant on March 24, March 31 and Wednesday night. The task force set up the drug buys after receiving information from the informant that he could purchases large quantities of crack cocaine from a man named "G," according to the police report.

On Wednesday night, Chapman told the confidential informant to meet him at Springside Park's Little League field. After authorities witnessed the sale, they boxed in the 2002 Ford Explorer that Chapman had arrived in before the vehicle could leave the park.

Officers confiscated \$243 from Chapman, including \$100 in prerecorded bills, Green said. He was also found to be in possession of a cell phone that contained calls made to the confidential inform-

Attorney Anthony Gianacopolous said Chapman realized he had to pay the \$100 fine, but that he was never given the opportunity to work off the amount he owed by performing community service. He asked the court to set bail at \$250, claiming there were no seri-

ous drug offenses on his record. Police also charged Edward Martin, 20, of Lebanon Avenue, with possession of marijuana, and Shane Aulisio, 20, of Union Street, with possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana. Martin Both men were released on personal recognizance.

"It had been put on continua- Tony Dobrowolski can be reached tion without a finding sometime at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com



Skateboarder Zach Norton, 16, performs a 'board slide' at the Common on First Street in Pittsfield. Dalton skaters are continuing their efforts to create a skate park.

have been terrific in doing that." But Hartigan says that logic reflects misplaced values. "A park involves a certain sense of ethics and public trust," he said. "It belongs to the people, not any government agency, not a director of parks, not to a group that wants to put something in. Preserving identity

Parks commissioners this past week endorsed the "Rotary Park"

"As far as I'm concerned, anyone who wants to donate \$350,000 for a park can name it whatever they want," said John Herman. "You guys

\$350,000."

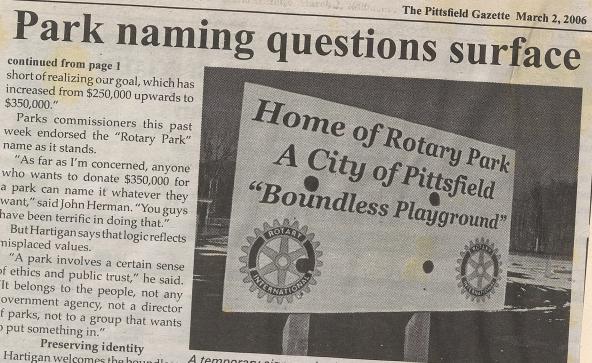
name as it stands.

that sponsors annual park cleanups this," he said, showing a large color sion has rallied behind the Rotary

Avenue entrance archway — dimin- boundless playground initiative "All the material we got from is wrong," he said. "This is a gateway O'Brien noted that the legal docuthe signage."

nage referring to a softball complex Park" as the name.

Springside Park," he said. not been input," he said. "We never "Any organization that spends so "I quite frankly think the Rotary



Hartigan welcomes the boundless A temporary sign marks the location of the accessible "boundless"

"There is a faulty and unethical cul"Rotary Park is certainly well "the overriding and underlying issue ture of ownership," he said. "This is publicized," said Ron Latham. Dur- which is the public responsibility to a small example, and I'm not saying ing the parks commission meeting, safeguard the nature and identity of its intentional or malicious, but what he displayed newspaper articles that public spaces." we see being played out here is that if included written references to the "Something added to a park is a you spend a certain amount of money, name and a rendering that showed good thing, but it should be named

Hartigan has been involved with "Any time we have been to a he said. the Friends of Springside, a group fundraiser, we have displayed While the current parks commis-

He thinks the Rotary Park name The name and project — which be correct about uncertainty relative — to be displayed on a Springside the Rotary Club adopted after the to the name.

ishes the Springside name. "The floundered — recognize Rotary's Rotary said it was 'boundless',"

to Springside Park but it says Rotary ments between the city and the club Nadeau added that the complaints Park and that's not true, it's a lie."—with the Rotary funding the project—about the Doyle name should have Hartigan has also protested sig- on city property — identify "Rotary been addressed long ago. "We took

"It's not Doyle Park, it's part of Ward 2 councilor Lou Costi told

Hartigan has also complained that it's wrong to suggest the Rotary Club the boundless playground site, but the naming of Rotary Park occurred did anything underhanded or inaphe also thinks the Springside name

knew about it until we saw the [tem- much time, so much effort to help name can be there however they our youth... doesn't deserve this," he want, as long as there also is signage Rotarians this past week disputed said. "It's a slap in the face." the notion that the name wasn't Hartigan said he respects the Ro- he said.

playground but wants the Springside playground expected to open this spring near Springside Avenue.

accurately, it should tell the truth,"

and has fought certain development illustration with the "Rotary Park" Park name, former commission chair-

said Nadeau. "Nobody ever saw

constructed off Benedict Avenue as "This was approved by both city on the Doyle sign to identify it as "Doyle Park" in honor of the late council, parks commission and May-. Springside Park and that hasn't been done," he said.

Nadeau said the Rotary Club the commission this past week that should be prominently identified at

> that says this is also Springside Park," Hartigan wants the city or Rotary

Club to provide the funds for a new archway sign eliminating the "Rotary Park" phrase. "Money cannot and should not undermine a public trust," he said.

Hartigan said he'll put his money and talent to the cause. "If they match it, I'd put up to \$600 of my own money toward that \$3,700 sign," he said. A musician, Hartigan said he'd also be willing to perform at a benefit concert toward the cause.

O'Brien said time is short and the controversy is tainting a project that has involved more than two years of fundraising, designing and red-tape

"How many organizations like Rotary undertake a \$350,000 project, one that will be a destination point and will allow all kids to engage and interact together?" he asked. "I realize this has become a political issue, but it's unfortunate that this great project is surrounded now by this controversy."

Initial site work began in the autumn. The playground is scheduled to open in the spring.

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Frida

Pittsfield

Eagles **Band sets** concert

PITTSFIELD — The Eagles Band Wind Symphony and Public Arts Resource Center has announced a special spring concert to be held on Sunday at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church on

Works to be performed include "Toccata for Band," "Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)" with trombone soloist Dave Potter, "Amazing Grace," and more. Guest conductors for this per-

formance will be Deanna Fraher and Dr. James Stakenas. This concert will kick off the 2006 Eagle Band season marking the 70th year since the band's creation in 1936 as the oldest contin-

uing performance ensemble in the The Eagles' performing units include a wind symphony, brass ensemble, swing band, marching

band and orchestra. Members range in age from 12 to 85 with skill levels of intermediate to expert. New members are always welcome to sit in during rehearsals on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.

Following this performance, preparations will begin for the summer season, which will include outdoor concerts at Springside Park on June 20, July 18 and Aug. 8, and a community concert during the opening week of the Colonial

Information: Dick Paul at (413) 499-2071. 3-31-06

Dog days

Chuck Garivaltis does not hate dogs.

ssion is on crusade against irre-But the chairman of the parks commi

sponsible dog owners. Garivaltis caused waves this past month when he proposed banning canines from Burbank Park. This coming Monday, he'll not only seek to

codify that plan but to enact a ban on dogs in all city parks. The commission has grappled with the issue of dogs — and particularly their droppings - for years. The meetings during which feces, dog doo and other delicate subjects are discussed usually end in frustration and

After witnessing what he termed foul, unsanitary conditions at Burbank

Publisher's Notebook

Park, Garivaltis determined it is time for action. He thinks that dogs at the lakefront park are creating unsafe

and unhealthy conditions. Other commissioners reacted with some trepidation to Garivaltis' crusade about Burbank. Now that he's decided to seek a dog ban citywide,

it should prove to be a lively discussion on Monday night. Most Burbank users would agree that the situation has become intolerable. The question may be whether an outright ban or enforcement of other

rules is the best course. And the situation at some other city parks has also become astounding. During a "National Night Out" fair held this week at one park, police officers looked like they were walking a mine field because of the way some residents allow dogs to use the parks as what Garivaltis terms "a public

"I know this isn't popular with some people," said Carryaltis. But this is about reclaiming the parks, especially for the children 13/16

Parks commission considers more funds for Clapp improvements The price tag for botched upgrades posal is more of a stopgap. "I don't he said.

at Clapp Park may increase.

rejected a proposed fix to a problem The community services director blame McGrath for all the probrelated to the slope of upgraded said that the problems in part reflect lems. "We as parks commissioners fields, voting to instruct the project the original plans, which didn't ad- approved these plans," he said. engineer to come up with a more dress how upgrading the soccer field Commissioner Charles Garivaltis

McGrath. "The right thing to do is "The responsible thing to do is take working with the West Little League,

testy parks commission meeting as been addressed earlier. commissioners debated perceived "I cannot understand why you including: deficiencies on field projects funded would sign off with Gale Associates

• major repairs to a diamond at

Bossidy. The two vendors at the heart of the McGrath said "the flaw is in the ment of misplaced fences dispute — designer Gale Associates design," which the commission apand contractor DHT Golf Services proved.

ing the Clapp Park problem. expressed concerns about the pro-summer,"he said.

Gale Associates. "The grade, or slope, as proposed problems earlier in the process. "You probably an apt description." would result in a constructed slope should have come back to us at that Garivaltis said he remains frustratthat would be similar to a designed time and said, 'look there's a probe d that the track surface correction grade that was unacceptable to the lem'," she said. city of Pittsfield," said Tibbett. He McGrath said responsibility is because he got caught, he got nailed," instead advocated an expansion of shared but he accepts the criticism. said the commissioner. the contract work for a more complete "As department head, I'll take Commissioner John Herman asked

After much discussion, the com- But McGrath said the bigger issue 19 meeting, a prioritized timeline of mission accepted Tibbett's recom- is to devise remedies. "We need to planned repairs by DHT.

think it's going to work to the level Commissioner John Marchesi

McGrath urged the latter course of the project up through the softball first place," he said. action, saying a problem related to field," he said. "In hindsight, we rethe steep gradation between a soccer ally should have had them do it." sist on a better improvement at Clapp, field and old softball/baseball field Redoing the softball field could seeking a cost estimate. Other than

needs to be properly addressed. have a cost for the city, he said. "It using more Bossidy funds, McGrath "We're talking Clapp Park, we're may take some additional Bossidy said options could include seeking talking the gateway to our city," said Bucks, it may not," McGrath said. free work from a local contractor or to do it right and redo that softball a step back, bite the bullet and do which earlier sought Bossidy money it right."

The Clapp Park situation high- Commission chairwoman Eleanor the site. lighted a once again sometimes Persip thinks the issue should have DHT has agreed to other correc-

problems," she said.

last year, he said, it would have car- Krivin Park

In a letter sent to the commission ried a cost just as it might now. "We placement of suitable surface on Tuesday, DHT owner Dahn Tibbett would have paid for it last fall or last the Clapp Park running track, posed reengineering submitted by Persip said that McGrath should crucial since "what we did get down

blame," he said. McGrath said that the Gale pro-resolve the situation is to do it right," report," pledged McGrath.

The parks commission on Tuesday that we need out there," he said. agreed, adding that it's unfair to

The Pittsfield Gazette September 8, 2005

comprehensive solution — even if it would impact the old softball field. agreed that the Gale Associates solumeans the city will absorb a greater "We chose to really strictly rehationisunacceptable. Buthealsowasn't bilitate the soccer field and the engisure DHT can be trusted. "They were Community services director Jim neers weren't charged with carrying responsible for the destruction in the

toward its own proposed upgrade at

tions requested by commissioners

with a \$1 million donation from Larry when you knew there were some the Doyle complex, including mound repairs, new basepaths and replace-

trol box that was placed near home — appear to disagree about remedy- Even if the problem was addressed plate and not sufficiently buried at

> Garivaltis said the latter issue is have alerted the commission to the there is a wful; construction garbage is

is necessary. "He's going to do this

McGrath to provide, at the September be honest and say the best way to "There will be a comprehensive

Brooke Howlett, 4, of Pittsfield, hangs from a

ladder at Clapp Park on Thursday afternoon.

The naming of a new playground has fueled controversy nd hard feelings.

he Pittsfi

The parks commission this past week affirmed its support or naming a \$350,000 handicap-accessible playground at pringside Park as "Rotary Park."

The name recognizes the two-year project by the Rotary Club of Pittsield to raise the funds for the "boundless" playground which will allow children with a range of physical disabilities to play side-by-side with other

But a cadre of Springside Park boosters raised concerns about the name, saying that - along with the moniker of "Doyle Park" at nearby softball fields — the identity of a showcase park is being compromised. For Rotarians, the dispute has added a frustrating chapter to the civic

lub's biggest-ever project. "It's a shame this very unique project is surrounded by these clouds,"

aid John O'Brien, president of the club's charitable foundation. O'Brien and other Rotarians feel that the Springside complainants — led by Royal Hartigan — should have spoken up sooner. At this past Tuesday's parks commission meeting, Rotarians displayed newspaper articles and publicly viewed renderings that clearly identified the playground as "Ro-

And the Rotarians say that having undertaken a massive fundraising and lesign project for what will be a city-owned facility off Springside Avenue, hey shouldn't be asked to redo plans and assume additional expense for new signage at this late juncture.

"The issue isn't that we are unwilling to change the name as it currently A rendering entitled "Rotary Park Boundless Playground" depicts

he Pittsfield Gazette February 9, 2006



PITTSFIELD PARKS DEPARTMENT

SPRINGSIDE HOUSE

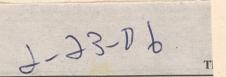
PITTSFIELD MA 01201-1504

874 NORTH ST

reads, though time is short," said O'Brien. "The issue is that in order to the accessible play area being constructed at Springside Park. The do that, there's a minimum cost of no less than \$3,700 and we're just not naming of the Rotary-supported project has emerged as an issue, in a position to take on that additional expense. We're still about \$27,000 even as the civic organization struggles to finalize fundraising for



See PARK page 11 the Springside Avenue endeavor.



Mock Pittsfield

Chin up

No, the latest plan for art in Park Square is not a joke.

The parks commission, with sparse contemplation, voted this week to decorate the city's most prominent park in blue ribbons and a "mock crime scene" for the month of April.

9/9/06

Surely the way to combat the stigma of Pittsfield's central city as an unsafe place is not by erecting mock police tape and victim outlines at this busy rotary for one month.

The commission acted in good faith if not with common sense, embracing the plan because it's a gimmick to promote awareness of child abuse. But this latest infliction of "statement" art adds to the sense of a down-

It's great that citizens convene at Park Square to tout views. Those holding signs to promote candidates, oppose war or any other view should be welcome. The anti-war "boot" display at the park stands out as an example of promoting potent dialogue. Performance pieces for any cause should be

welcome, so long as they don't cause unsafe or intrusive disruptions. The current trend, however, is to allow artists and activists not to stand out or perform live, but to take over the public space for their messages and leave them there unattended.

Publisher's

Whether the cause is a politically correct one like abuse awareness or breast cancer awareness; or a controversial one such as abortion, Notebook controversial one such as abortion, there is no reason for such prime a cause. And when one starts selec-

tively choosing which political statements are acceptable for unattended art installations and ribbon displays, Pandora's Box begins to open.

The notion of using the puerile intrigue of a crime scene to lure viewers into discourse is creative and valid for another setting; but turning over the city's most prominent public space for this sort of provocation makes

The Pittsfield Gazett **OPINIONS** Pittsfield, Mass 01202-2236 gazette@berkshire.net THE LAST THING YOU HEAR AS YOUR LIFE UNENFORCEABLE RULE FLASHES BEFORE YOUR EYES. No. 127 DON'T WORRY. HE WON'T BITE. HE'S JUST A BIG FUZZY PARK RULES PER ORDER PARKS DEPT KEEP DOGS ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES PER ORDER PARKS DEPARTMENT AND YOU DON'T NEED A WEAPONS PERMIT

bearing the same information. But ing many majority of councilors has been the Pittsfield Family YMCA.



Then & Now

90/88

Wild worries

During the public microphone session at the beginning of Tuesday's city council meeting, Ann Truran raised concerns about maintenance of Wild Acres — where a fallen tree has been atop the building for weeks. "It needs to be preserved and conserved," she said of the conservation property near the municipal airport.

The Pittsfield Gazette March 2, 2006

Downtown advocates question mock crime scene plan

hibit reportedly has the support of the repercussions," she said. from eight day ago - but it doesn't spot and length of time." nesses in the central city.

people," said ward 2 city councilor a crime scene."

Costi. "We're trying to show people April, tying into an abuse aware- of Downtown Inc., said she has heard that our downtown is safe and people ness month. the whole wrong perception."

Beverly Dubiski, who owns the no common sense whatsoever, it's the "Downtown Inc. and the city have month of April. Bellissimo Dolce cafe, is "absolutely wrong image." against" the planned display.

said. "We're trying to change the hibit is a step backwards in efforts to whole atmosphere of North Street boost downtown's image.

Dubiski said her cafe supports art- the wrong impression."

they're trying to portray for down- is not a safe community?" The depiction of a simulated crime town," said Kirby. "When people Lothrop said that Red Collaborascene in the city's most prominent from out of the area drive through tive artist-activist Gabriella Senza park will send a bad message after North Street, they'll see a crime scene. could put up a one-day exhibit or center city safety, critics believe. They're not going to stop and look to try another locations. "It's a horrible thing to be showing see what it is, they're just going to see "Domestic violence and abuse are

Lou Costi, who owns downtown Kirby is especially upset that the don't think you put them in this fashcity plans to allow the display to ion in our most Pittsfield place." "I'm totally against this," said be erected for the entire month of Yvonne Pearson, executive director

is irresponsible," he said. "This has the exhibit this past week."

"I don't think it's a positive," she who works downtown, thinks the ex-she said.

and show downtown is a safe place "Frankly I don't like it," said police department on an active the square." to be — which it is. Anything that is Lothrop. "As someone who is try- Crimewatch group and other ac- Pearson said the message is ap- cludes victim outlines, made with negative as far as crime is concerned ing to make the city a more friendly tivities designed to ensure a safe propriate, but not the location. and inviting place, I think it leaves district.

the police department, have worked The "mock crime scene" ex- "You have to think it through and aggressively to "make people under-

stand this is a safe community." Mayor James Ruberto — he has not John Kirby, owner of the Ski Fanat- The councilor said he'll explain the responded to the Gazette's inquiries ics retail store, thinks "it's the wrong political meaning behind the exhibit to his daughters, but "how many appear to have much other support "Ithink this is another thing they're people will not have that conversafrom those who work or own busi- doing that's really bad for the image tion, creating the impression that this

rampant, real issues," he said, "but I

Members of the downtown com- going to be able to read the [messages ough in 2003.

munity have collaborated with the of empowerment] as you go around For the display, she wraps mock

such as the crime depiction don't business leaders, in conjunction with isn't real. "My biggest concern is that cation for this particular exhibit," she erected by the Kids Place.



from numerous distressed business Gabriella Senza mounted a mock crime scene exhibit in New Marlwill drive through and see this... It's "To have that up for a whole month owners since the Gazette reported on borough in 2003, but downtown advocates think the concept will fuel negative perceptions if permitted at Park Square during the

long been fighting the perception of maybe only ten percent of people go-said.

"I agree the message is very power- "silencing phrases."

Ward5councilorJonathanLothrop, the city as having a crime problem," ing around the square will know it's Senza mounted a similar, less an art exhibit," she said. "You're not prominent display in New Marlbor-

> police tape around a site that intorn strips of shirt fabric featuring

Pearson worries that only a fraction ful and it is an important message, but The Park Square display will be ists, but that politically charged art Lothrop said that city officials and of people will realize the crime scene I'm not sure this is an appropriate lo-accompanied by blue ribbons to be

New location for abuse art

By Derek Gentile

PITTSFIELD - An artist's dis- move it." play aimed at raising the public's awareness of physical, sexual and based on the fact that people emotional abuse will be placed in might not be able to walk [over to the public garden at Town Hall, Park Square] and experience the rather than Park Square, begin- exhibit the way it was meant to be ning April 1.

The display, "Walk Unafraid," will be a mock crime scene, according to Gabrielle Senza, a Great Bar- the concerns that "this could be rington artist and the executive dir- confused for a true crime scene." ector of the nonprofit Red Collab-

from the surrounding sidewalks. to the ground by hairpins.

"I want people to be able to get to the exhibit without any fuss, she said. "The traffic around Park

Square, especially during the day, is pretty busy. So we decided to

"The decision to move it was experienced," said Mayor James M. Ruberto yesterday.

Ruberto added that he had heard

The "police tape" that ropes off the "crime scene" is actually yel-Initially, said Senza, the plan low tape on which is written was to set up the display at Park awareness-raising slogans. In addi-Square. But town officials and lo-tion, said Senza, the "victim's" cal businesspeople expressed con- outline is made with torn strips of cern that such a display might be shirt fabric on which are handmisconstrued as a real crime scene. written phrases meant to elicit In addition, said Senza, Park compliance and silence from a vic-Square is not easily accessible tim. The fabric strips will be held

Ruberto, who supports the dis-

ART, continued on A5



Rave reviews: a colorful, handicap accessible playground opens at Springside Park, courtesy of the Pittsfield Rotary Club.

Art display will open at Town Hall

ART from A1

play, praised Senza as "an incredi-

bly creative artist." "She wants to help advance awareness of the problem of abuse in our community," the mayor said. Ruberto said he believed it was "critical to increase the level of

awareness of abuse in Pittsfield." Senza, who said she has been a victim of sexual abuse herself in the past, founded Red Collaborative in 2004 as a way of "giving voice to the voiceless." This display is in collaboration with Berkshire County Kids Place, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Redfield House and the Teen Parenting Pro-

"The main point is to offer a public, but anonymous, opportunity to give voice to those who have

been silenced," said Senza. Senza has been painting since the mid-1980s. Her work has been displayed in galleries in Europe and the United States. She began dealing with her abuse episodes

through her artwork. Red Collaborative helps raise awareness of various forms of abuse by working with survivors of abuse referred to the program from social service agencies. The survivors along with professional artists and members of the general public collaborate in the creation and exhibition of public art pieces. The display, located in the pub-

lic garden at the corner of Federal and Allen streets will go up April 1 and be taken down on April 30, said Senza.

Derek Gentile can be reached at dgentile@berkshireeagle.com

Dodgeball with park payments

By Dan Valenti

One of the most astounding revelations in the saga of "improvements" to Kirvin, Clapp, and Doyle parks is that the city has already shelled out 95% of the \$309,000 cost. Tack on the \$65,000 paid to the consultant, and the total outlay jumps to \$358,550.

The work was shoddy, we don't know why, but we still paid for it.

What went wrong? Faulty design? Poor construction? Improper supervision? Most puzzling, however, is the 95% pay out. Projects this large have a "stepped" or "phased" pay scale. After a certain amount of the work is done and inspected, partial payment is made, but how could that have been done here? The work was of poor quality.

That's one of the smoking gun questions as we try to assess responsibility for the mess. Who on behalf of the city signed off on faulty work

so payments could be made? According to commissioners, 95% Planet Valenti of the money has been paid and not in one lump sum. Therefore, if the city followed procedure, someone

had to be periodically certifying the work and approving payment to contractor DHT Golf Services. Who? Who in authority inspected the phases to certify quality of work that would trigger payment?

Here's an even more troubling question. Was that even done? Did the city inspect the work? That's hard to swallow, considering the problems the city faces (for example, an underlay for the running track at Clapp Park, billed at \$21,000 and never installed).

This leads to the most devastating question of all: were payments made for work that wasn't inspected? That would be a serious and perhaps actionable violation. It could indicate laziness, incompetence, or corruption. Or do we have another case of fiscal freelancing? The city's famous for ignoring procedure and making it up as it goes along.

It will be helpful to understand just how the city makes payments on bills.

Article VI of the city code spells out "Procedures for Approval of Payment of Bills, Claims and Payrolls." Sec. 2-26 deals with "Original examination, approval and certification of accounts and claims generally." It says "every account and claim...shall in the first instance be examined, and, if found just, shall be approved and certified by the officer, board or department authorized to create the liability..." In other words, before making a payment, the work has to be examined and approved for quality.

Did the city follow its own procedure? Did it "examine" the work and "find it just" before checks were cut? But how could that have been done if 95% of the money was paid for work turned out so badly? Who signed off? There should be a signature on a physical piece of paper, several of them in fact, at least one for each of the phased payments.

Sec. 6-27 outlines safeguards of payments. It requires bills to be examined and approved monthly by the relevant "officers, boards and departments." How do we interpret that last phrase? It could mean the Parks Commission. It could also mean Jim McGrath, director of community services. Has the commission or McGrath as department head been examining and approving bills on a monthly basis, as code dictates? Since the commissioners are part-time volunteers and McGrath is a full-time paid department head, we say the buck stops with him. Did McGrath sign off on the work?

 $\hbox{\cite{There is further protection built into the system. Sec.}}$ 6-28 requires that on or before the fifth day of each month, bills approved for payment will be sent to the city accountant, along with an approved audit sheet.

This information will include the names of payees, the amount of the bill, and information on the validity of the claim. Section 6-28 requires the accountant to "carefully examine all such approved bills, and, if they are in proper form," present the bills with accompanying audit sheets and other information to the committee on accounts. Did the accountant do that for the bills connected with the work at Clapp,

Kirvin, and Doyle? If the accounts committee "has doubt concerning the propriety of any approved bill," it is required to bounce it back to the department that approved the payment. If the department (Parks) can't provide an adequate explanation, accounting sends the bill, with its objections, to the city council "for consideration and final decision." Were any bills questioned? Why not, if the work was so shoddy?

Approved bills get sent to the director of finance/treasurer (Dick Bordeau's office), which cuts a check. Before that happens, however, code outlines an elaborate procedure to safeguard against

payment for bad work. That's the point here. Did someone sign off on the integrity of the work? Did the department inspect the bills each month? Did the accountant provide further scrutiny? Was any of this done?

Commissioners need to press for an answer, starting with Director McGrath. Did the city follow it's own safeguards and procedures in releasing 95% of the payment for work on the three fields? If the answer is yes, where's the documentation to support the claim? If the answer is no, who's head will roll?

There's another huge unresolved question. Who's going to pay to fix the fields? Will taxpayers have to pay twice, almost \$400,000 in the first place to screw up the fields then untold dollars to repair the damage? Mayor Jimmy Ruberto insists taxpayers will not be bilked for double damages. He vowed if necessary to go after the contractor's performance bond. He also said if sufficient progress isn't made, he "won't hesitate to insert myself into the negotiations."

Commissions Mike Filpi and Chuck Garivaltis, in addition to former commissioner Gene Nadeau, echoed that sentiment. As Garivaltis put it, "The people of Pittsfield shouldn't be on the hook for one more dime. Period."

At the Aug. 15 Parks Commission meeting, taxpayers must have felt as if they were fighting a war of attrition. The contractor acknowledged problems at Clapp Park, promising to fix the work at its own expense beginning immediately. Eight days after the meeting, though, nothing had been done. Garivaltis

"I wanted that work to begin the day after [the Aug. 15 meeting], but I would expect to see, and I had better see, a shovel in the ground at Clapp before our next meeting [Tuesday, Sept. 6].'

Who's on the hook for repairs to the two ball fields at Kirvin and to the Babe Ruth field at Doyle? Mysteriously, the commission didn't want to explore that nor has McGrath exactly been holding anyone's feet to the fire. Why not? It's time for it.

At the next meeting, McGrath needs to draw the line. Did his office or the city screw up and where? If not, he needs to rain fire and knock heads. He needs to pronounce that the city will not, in Garivaltis' words, pay "one more dime."

"Who's to blame for the shattering of our dreams of having playable fields for our children?" asked Parks Commission Chair Ellie Persip. "The fields have been completely compromised," said Garivaltis.

Tax payers should n't face double in demnity. So whowill go to bat for them?

B6 — The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, April 1, 2006



Caroline Bonnivier / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Spring roll

Six-year-old Domonick Rooney of Pittsfield tumbles down the hill in Pittsfield's Clapp Park yesterday afternoon.

More review for park sale

PITTSFIELD — Following a discussion that involved all 11 members, the City Council last night voted to refer to its ordinance and rules subcommittee a proposal that would authorize

the sale of almost three acres of Burbank Park. The council voted 7-4 in favor of referring the proposal to its subcommittee for further review. In order for the city to sell the land, Mayor James M. Ruberto had asked the council to approve a special act to the state legislature authorizing the city to take such action. Both state legislative branches must also approve the

James McGrath, the city's Director of Community Services, said the 2.69 acre parcel provides frontage on the east side of Valentine Road. The land was separated from the rest of Burbank Park when Valentine Road was extended to Peck's Road in the 1970s. The Parks Commission approved the city's request to sell the land in November 2002.

Ward 7 Councilor Anthony V. Maffuccio, whose jurisdiction contains the parcel, said the owner of land located behind it was interested in using the 2.69 acres as frontage in order to build four or five houses.

Some councilors said they would support the measure because the land in question was not connected to anything and is too small to develop. Ward 5 Councilor Jonathan N. Lothrop, however, said he believed the land could be developed, and that the council needed to take a closer look at the proposal before it was approved.

"I really am having trouble with this, procedurally," Lothrop said. "This special act is not even signed by our city solicitor or anybody else. I really believe this should go to ordinance Lothrop referred to the recent debate over

allowed time-shares to be built at Ponterril, which is located in a residential zone where those structures are currently banned. "We spend more time talking about one par-

the resort development bylaw that would have

cel of land that's a change in zoning," he said. "How about selling land, and we're not even sending this to committee."
"It's zoned R-20," Lothrop said. Ponterril con-

tains the same zoning designation. "It's 20,000 square feet. [With] 2.69 acres, that's five lots." Council members also had questions about the four sections contained in the special legislative act. Ward 4 Councilor Michael L. Ward asked if a section allowing proceeds from the sale to be used for the acquisition of land for either park purposes or capital improvements to park land be amended to allow the city to use the proceeds to purchase the development rights for other tracts of land in the city that develop-

PARK, continued on B4

Council sends park sale to subcommittee for review

ers may be interested in.

start a fund for us to purchase the the proposal. camps across [Onota] Lake. ... It's "I got a number of phone calls developable. We shouldn't wait."

Council President Gerald M. Lee Ward said. said any amendments to the special Councilors Lewis C. Markham act should wait until after it has Jr., Peter M. Marchetti, Daniel M. been approved by state legislators. Bianchi and Linda M. Tyer joined

Both Ward and Councilor at large Tricia Farley Bouvier said they had received e-mails and "Obviously, this is not enough phone calls from city residents money," Ward said. "But we could who had problems understanding

on this, because it was cryptic,"

"I don't know if amending the Lothrop, Ward and Farley Bouvier act is a good idea," Lee said. "It in voting to refer the measure to has to come back to us at some ordinance and rules. Councilors point in order for us to approval a Matthew M. Kerwood and Louis sale. I think that would be the time M. Costi joined Lee and Maffuccio to decide which way we should go." in voting against the referral.

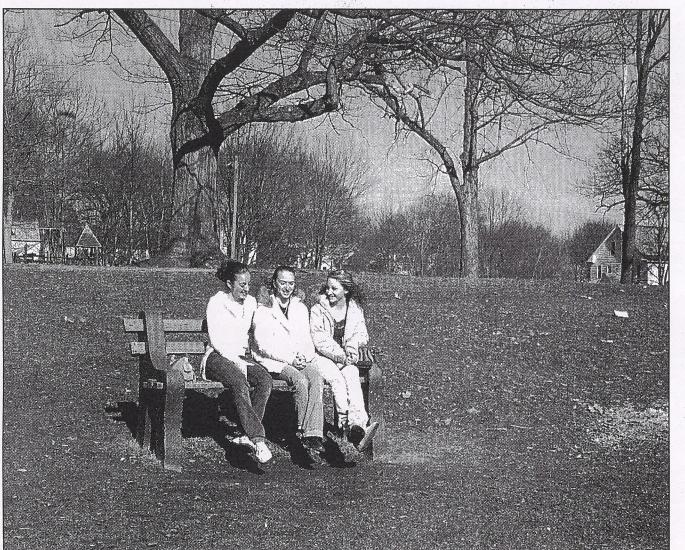


afternoon. Lerner has been planning these dinners

once a month for two years.

On the Web: www.BerkshireEagle.com

HITLOG The Berkshires



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Finding their place in the sun

Courtney Taylor, left, her sister Rachel Taylor and their friend Cara Adornetto, right, bask in yesterday's warm, sunny weather at

H AH HA AH

Pittsfield

event, it's not like a carnival where you have a lot of noise going to a late hour at night," he said. "Parking would not be an issue because July 4 after the parade there's no downtown people working anyway."

Pittsfield Parade Committee treasurer Peter Marchetti said that his group is interested in a circus fundraiser to tie into this year's "circus" parade theme and that a committee member did speak to a Lions Club representa-

But Marchetti said the Lions Club didn't reach any agreement for a collaboration. "You do not have the blessing of the parade committee to do anything on our behalf," he told McGinnis.

While the Lions Club deals with the Cole Bros. circus each year, the parade committee has met with a competing circus which toured city sites this past week.

Marchetti cited "a huge lack of communication" related to the Lions Club.

McGinnis agreed that "there is confusion." Marchetti said that he and parade committee president Lew Markham were present to seek the parks commission's input about places for the committee to hold a circus.

"We're here looking for guidance and help to find a location, Mr. McGin-

nis' issue is a separate issue," said Marchetti. McGinnis argued that the Lions Club plan is a better one for the city. "Their circus is a one-time thing," he said. "Cole Bros. has been in business since 1884... They are one of the most successful fundraisers for us."

Parks commission chairwoman Eleanor Persip said that the Lions Club case is weaker if the situation is an either/or option. "Do we deal with the Pittsfield Parade Committee first or deal with somebody from out of town that wants to use our facilities?" she asked.

But Persip said that neither group is probably welcome at the First Street Common, where neighbors "will not be happy about it."

She wondered about using a school location, perhaps Herberg or Reid Parade president Lew Markham said "the only thing we're looking for from

the parks department is permission to have a circus on parks property." Marchetti said that the city has always supported the parade. "It's an event that represents the city of Pittsfield, that benefits the city of Pittsfield,"

Ward 2 councilor Lou Costi voiced support for helping the parade committee host a circus, saying "that's apple pie, that is what Pittsfield is all

Costi however said the First Street Common is inappropriate for any circus. "There's history there," he said. "There are lots of other public parks

Commissioner John Marchesi recalled a disastrous circus a couple decades ago that ruined the field at the Common. He instead said that the Wahconah Park parking lot should be used.

Commissioner John Herman said that the market can't support competing circuses. "To have two circuses within a few miles of each other doesn't

Commissioner Charles Garivaltis suggested using the PEDA property for the circus. "I would recommend the Williams Stanley Industrial Park," he said. The event could highlight the renaissance of the property.

Markham agreed to inquire about the various non-park sites, but he wanted it understood that "if we can't find a place, we're back in your lap." Contacted Wednesday, Tom Hickey — executive director of PEDA — said he'd explore allowing a circus on the site if asked. But he thinks the idea

"I will approach our insurance company but my gut reaction is they would not be willing to accept the liability," said Hickey.

firearm without a license to carry and of dis- Pittsfield and Springfield; he could live with his

charging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling. fiancée's family here or with his mother in



PITTSFIELD PARKS DEPARTMENT SPRINGSIDE HOUSE 874 NORTH ST

ISSUE 747 FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Mock crime scene planned for city

Artist/activist will set up month-long installation at Park Square

Crime, art and political statements may collide in the center city this spring.

The parks commission this week approved a plan to erect a "mock crime scene" at Park Square for the month of April.

The installation — a collaboration between the Berkshire County Kids Place and Red Collaborative — will encourage awareness of abuse.

The Kids Place will place blue ribbons throughout the park to highlight child abuse prevention month. Red Collaborative will erect an exhibit simulating a crime scene with policestyle tape and the outlines of victims. The exhibit will include phrases and slogans related to abuse.

out question."

Katrina Mattson of the Kids Place and emotional abuse. of abuse issues in the community. She laborative, said her project is "very victims at the mock crime scene will nents are going in concurrently, they are separate displays.

"This sounds like a worthwhile Gabrielle Senza this week received permission to install a "mock dorsed the proposal but said that project," said commissioner Charles crime scene" at Park Square during the month of April. The exhibit the plan for a month-long crime Garivaltis. "I would support it with- — based on a smaller display Senza mounted in New Marlborough scene depiction should be reviewed in 2003 (above) - will aim to raise awareness of physical, sexual by the police department.

She said that the police tape will are printed. Gabriella Senza, the principal of include "empowering, awareness-"It's very powerful piece, it's very mixed reaction to the proposal.

She said that the police tape will are printed.

"It's very powerful piece, it's very see CRIME page 17"

See CRIME page 17

also said that while the two compo-empowering for participants and be made from torn strips of shirt probably be a good idea." fabric on which "silencing phrases"

empowering," said Senza. She previously erected a version of the piece in 2003 at the Meeting House Gallery in New Marlborough.

Parks commission chairwoman Eleanor Persip said that the installation would attract attention, but that people wouldn't be aware of its intention unless they looked carefully.

"People would have to go in the park and read those to understand," she said.

Senza said that giving the illusion of a crime scene appeals to the curiosity of passersby. "Most people are intrigued by

crime scenes," she said. "It would draw people in... We want to get a lot of phrases on there." Commissioner John Herman en-

"Have you checked out with the

said that intent is to raise awareness Great Barrington-based Red Col- raising slogans." The outlines of police department that they're OK with this?" he asked. "That would

Contacted Wednesday afternoon, police chief Anthony Riello had a

acts as an advisor to the Pittsfield Tree Watch organization

and to Pittsfield Beautiful. Robert was nominated for the

Dueling event plans create political circus

A two-ring circus has developed over competing plans for Fourth of July weekend benefits.

The Dalton Lions Club and Pittsfield Parade Committee both want to host traveling circuses that weekend on

city park property. The parks commission considered the requests during a wideranging discussion on Tuesday. The discussion ended with no formal action — but heated words were audible from the hallway where representatives of the groups convened as the commission meeting continued.

Neither group had made a formal written request and there was confusion as to whether they were working together or are potential competitors. And both groups want to use the

First Street Common, a site the commission is loathe to allow for circus use, largely due to its proximity to The Lions Club proposes a July The Dalton Lions Club sells tickets 4-5 circus; the parade committee for the Cole Bros. circus each sum-

mer and wants to move to Pittsfield. Dan McGinnis of the Lions Club The Pittsfield Parade Committee proposes a July 3-5 circus. said his group was approached by also plans to host a circus in July.

Dog owners reminded

to clean up after pets

The Board of Park Commissi-

oners reminds park users to curb their dogs and/or pick up

after their dogs in city parks and

The Parks Department has

received numerous complaints

from residents regarding this

issue, which seems to be a grow-

Residents calling to complain

are concerned with the health

and aesthetic implications of the

James McGrath, director of

community services, said he

hopes that people will voluntar-

ily comply with the ordinance

and either pick up after their

dogs or walk their dogs in un-

maintained areas of the parks.

McGrath, however, did state

that park security personnel and

the dog officers have been alert-

ed to the problem and will

Section 2 1/2-28 of the city

code allows the dog officer and

park security personnel to fine

any individual who allows his or

her dog to defecate on main-

tained areas or park property, including but not limited to

beaches, playgrounds, picnic

areas, basketball courts and

The fine for such offenses can

The board has also reminded

dog owners that dogs are to be

restrained at all times while on

park property and not allowed

playing fields of any kind.

be up to \$300 per offense.

address it this summer.

school grounds.

ing concern.

problem.

DACES A F

a member of the parade committee about collaborating. The Lions Club has traditionally sponsored an earlysummer circus, most recently at the Berkshire Mall. He said the Lions Club wants to use the Common "and a percentage of

our advance ticket sales will go to the Pittsfield Parade." McGinnis said that the Common is an ideal site for a circus. "It's a family

J-23-76 See CIRCUS page 11



"I would be interested in talking with them," said Riello. "We obviously support activities that will increase awareness around child abuse." But Riello also wondered whether a mock crime scene will fuel false impressions about safety in the center city.

"It's important to send the right message," said the chief. "Our downtown has gotten the wrong rap in recent years... We have a great downtown CrimeWatch through Downtown Inc. and we've worked very hard with them to change that image of downtown." Representatives of Downtown Inc. did not respond to queries as of

press time. Community services director Jim McGrath said that the installation fits with other statement-oriented art.

"It seems like Park Square has been and continues to be a place where statements are made, whether they be artistic or community empowerment," he said. "It seems to be a location for this type of thing." McGrath said that the parks commission has endorsed prior art

installations. "I don't see any long-lasting effects to this," he said. "It goes up and makes a statement and comes down."

With Mike Filpi absent, the commission voted 4-0 to allow the collaborative displays. At the request of commissioner John Marchesi, the commission de-

clined to allow the Kids Place to place a 2 foot by 5 foot banner on Park Square concurrent with the ribbons and crime scene.

"For years the parks commission has said no signs whatsoever in the park," said Marchesi. He said signs — including the United Way fundraising thermometer

— are not allowed in the park, but may be placed with permission on city-owned property opposite the park near East Street.

*Senza indicated the crime scene project has the support of Mayor James Ruberto. The mayor's office did not respond to queries on Wednesday regarding the installation.

shaky evidence from witnesses who may have BAIL, continued on B4 Pittsfield:

West said Daniels has no prior adult record

and no mental illness or drug or alcohol prob-

lems. He said he cooperated with police when

arrested in a Springfield mall and had been con-

sistently employed until the time of the Pitt

"There's nothing in any of these factors to

West also argued about what he said was

On the MOU. WWW.Dernomic Dugic.

Pittsfield:

Pittsfield:

Ethnic Fair revival

slated for summer

The Office of Cultural Devel-

opment and the Park Commis-

sion of the city of Pittsfield are

holding an open public meeting

on bringing back Pittsfield's

international festival, the Ethnic

Fair, in the summer of 2006.

The meeting will be held tomor-

row at 6:30 p.m. in Room 203 of

In past years, the annual

Ethnic Fair attracted more than

10,000 people yearly to down-

The last downtown Ethnic

Fair was held in 1986. The 2006

fair is scheduled to be held

Sunday, Aug. 27, from noon to 6

p.m. in the first block of North Street, which will be closed to

The fair will highlight the

diverse communities in Pitts-

field and the Berkshires and

feature a wide variety of inter-

national food and crafts from

around the world, as well as

music, dance, storytelling and

Individuals, organizations and

businesses interested in partici-

pating are encouraged to attend

Those interested in partici-

pating but unable to the meet-

ing may call Parks Commission

member Mike Filpi at (413)

822-1645 or Director of Cultur-

al Development Megan Whil-

Booth rentals can be reserved

now by contacting the individuals above.

den at (413) 499-9370.

City Hall, 70 Allen St.

town Pittsfield.

vehicular traffic.

the meeting.

By Ellen G. Lahr

Barbecue planned for Park Square

On Sunday, July 16, from 6 to 10 p.m., the Berkshire Beaux Arts Artists' Dinners and the city of Pittsfield will host their second barbecue in Park Square catered by Deac and Elaine Tiley and their staff from Bub's BBO in Sunderland. Anson Olds and Paul Rice will play traditional fiddle tunes.

Barbecued pork ribs and chicken as well as horseradish and brown sugar-glazed salmon are the entrees, with sides including jalapeno/cheddar cornbread, dirty rice, collard greens, barbecued baked beans and orange-glazed sweet potatoes. Also available will be homemade salsa with chips, watermelon, homemade cookies and brownies, and sodas, seltzer and fresh lemonade.

Vegetarians may request both the barbecued ricotta-stuffed eggplant and the grilled portabella vegetarian entrees when making reservations.

The dinner cost, including tax, tip and music, is \$23 for adults, \$12 for children under 10. Checks payable to Berkshire Breakfast Salon should be mailed to Judith Lerner, P.O. Box 257, Lenox Dale, MA 01242. Lerner must have reservations and checks in hand by Friday, July 7; include a phone number and e-mail address when making reservations in the event of changes. Information: Lerner at (413) 637-3315.

Restrooms will be available for use at St. Stephen's Church across the street. In the event of rain, the event will be held downstairs at St. Stephen's. There is no smoking at Berkshire Beaux Arts events, whether indoors or out.

No reduced bail for suspect in Pitt Park shooting incident

Park incident.

BAIL from B1

Pittsfield

No reduced bail in park shooting

Springfield, and the "notorious" nature of a on May 5 while standing at the John Street 'No prior record,' says attorney

shudders of fear through a community already

Daniels — Judge John A. Agostini refused to lowing up on the June 14 bail set by Judge alert the court that he would not appear," West

lower his bail from \$50,000 cash or \$500,000 Mary-Lou Rup, which was later challenged by

Daniels' then attorney Alexander Nappan, who court yesterday.

PITTSFIELD — An alleged gunman's ties to He is accused of firing at two men in Pitt Park Springfield.

daylight shooting incident at Pitt Park last entrance of the West Side playground. Neither

spring, prompted a Superior Court judge to of the alleged targets, Steven Corbet, 29, and

deny Mark Daniels' latest attempt to get his bail Terrell Ortiz, 25, was hit, but the incident sent

After hearing arguments from his lawyer and facing increasing gun violence, much of it

over the motives of witnesses who identified Daniels' new lawyer, Edward West, was fol-

Daniels, 23, has pleaded not guilty to charges sought a \$10,000 bail amount with electronic

to murder and assault by means of a dangerous West argued in court yesterday that Daniels

weapon, and to charges of possession of a poses no flight risk because of his family ties in

the prosecutor in the case — including a dispute believed to be drug-related.

of two counts each of armed assault with intent monitoring, which was denied.

had questionable motives in iden-

tifying Daniels. He said that there were no shell dent is now in jail on heroin Kinzer said. charges, and that it was that man's at Daniels.

ert Kinzer countered that not one but two independent witnesses up here," Agostini said. fact, Daniels has one court ap- until Jan. 20 for a further pretrial pearance default on his record as a

Pitt Park scene, and that, for 10 (413) 528-3660.

days, a warrant was pending for his

"He had to know that police were looking for him," Kinzer said. When an off-duty police officer casings found at the park, that one found Daniels at a Springfield of the suspected victims seen flee- mall, he was carrying a cane that ing from the park after the inci- concealed a double-edged knife,

Agostini denied the bail reducgirlfriend who pointed the finger tion request, which West said should be \$5,000. He said he was Assistant District Attorney Rob- leery of Daniels' Springfield ties. "And this was a notorious event

> Daniels' case was continued conference.

Ellen G. Lahr can be reached at He noted that Daniels fled the elahr@berkshireeagle.com or at live auction at 3. Those attending can bid for vacations, rur- environmental groups and tree committees in the country niture and home furnishings, designer fashions, Broadway shows, golf outings, fashion-show tickets, artwork and more. Proceeds support the association and its programs to protect the Housatonic Valley's open spaces, expand the which he serves as an advisor and as an ad hoc member. riverfront Greenway, improve water quality and educate children. Information: 860-672-6678.

Presutti honored PITTSFIELD — On Nov. 4, Robert Presutti of Pittsfield was one of three individuals statewide honored as an

Citizen Outstanding Forester by the State Department and Conservation Recreation. The award is given for volunteer service and dedication to urban and community forestry in the

Presutti was an original member of the Vincent J. Hebert Arboretum at

Springside Park, and remains an active board member. He has served on its advisory committee to establish a master plan, and worked on gaining non-

profit status for the organization. He has also provided support, encouragement and education to numerous fledgling



Courting recreation

Bravo to Mayor James Ruberto and the parks commission for prioritizing upgrades to basketball courts at city parks.

But shame on Pittsfield for allowing the popular recreational sites to fall into such disrepair. The warped, cracked and weed-infested courts are an unsafe embarrassment.

Publisher's Notebook

It's been a tough two decades for the city's park system, as budgets and programs have been slashed. Organized constituencies have successfully lobbied for sparse city resources. Fields and facilities used

by organized youth sports leagues, for example, have sometimes received attention and funds at the expense of parks used for informal recreational activity, such as basketball courts. The basketball court neglect highlights the need to make sure that wellused facilities that lack vocal advocates receive a fair share of resources. 8/11/05

An infestation at Williams College Hordes of tent caterpillars invade "It's not an exotic insect," he said. "We just haven't seen out-

By Christopher Marcisz

Berkshire Eagle Staff

WILLIAMSTOWN — If you've College campus this spring, you insect whose annual egg to caterpil- limited results. may have felt something stringy lar to cocoon to moth cycle has been "By all accounts, we're experigetting stuck in your hair and on particularly prolific of late. your clothes.

ting their hands to avoid something, ing their way through campus supervisor, in a campuswide e-mail Island. or noticed tree trunks and lampgreenery. They also have become this week. "The only possible way posts that appear covered in fur. And you would almost certainly steps, railings and doorknobs. eventually notice a black, half-inchlong caterpillar on your shoulder or arm, or see one dangling inches

project from the bowels of the "frass") on sidewalks and made a caterpillar outbreak is scattered the campus has simply become one should be followed with a shower. concentrations in Williamstown,

had to walk across the Williams pillars — a native species of the weeks fighting the infestation—with

An unsightly nuisance

from your face from threads at- pecting passers-by, climbed into cialist with the state Department of officials in Pittsfield are wary. Despite campus rumors about a dropped caterpillar poop (called western office in Pittsfield, said the Science Center gone horribly wrong, walk across campus feel like it around the county, with the highest The college's building and grounds Hancock and Lanesborough, over large outbreak of forest tent cater- department has spent the past few the past three years.

encing a particularly dramatic outan unsightly nuisance on pavement, to control it would be with airplane dusting of insecticide over this whole part of town - not really

feasible or desirable." the open windows of parked cars, Conservation and Recreation's

breaks like this."

Farther north, the caterpillar's fondness for sugar maples has some worried about the health of Ver-While harmless, they are vorabreak," wrote David Fitzgerald, the industry. But the infestations have You may have seen others swat- cious eaters and have been munch- college's horticulturist and grounds not reached Connecticut or Rhode

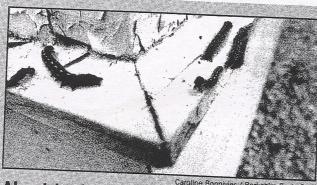
Officials are wary

James McGrath of the Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Department said it does not appear that there They've dropped onto unsus- Ken Gooch, a forest health spe- are too many of them, although "If we saw they were becoming a

> trees, we'd certainly react to that," Gooch said that, based on similar

real problem to the health of the

CATERPILLARS, continued on B4



About tent caterpillars

Common name: Forest tent caterpilla Species name: Malacosoma disstria

Appearance: Dark, somewhat hairy, about half an inch long. Have distinctive, white keyhole-shaped patterns along their backs. Unlike the similar eastern tent caterpillar, they do not make webs. Host plants: Prefer oak and maple trees, but can be found on many

types of deciduous host plants. Lifecycle: Eggs usually hatch in mid- to late-April, and then the caterpillars feed until about mid-June, when they spin cocoons. They emerge as moths in late June and July.

Source: University of Massachusetts Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program

ednesday, May 24, 2006

Caterpillars invade campus CATERPILLARS from B1

about the outbreak. Most healthy Meanwhile, the population contrees can grow more leaves to tinued to grow, and with comreplace the ones the caterpillars mencement and reunion weekeat, and nature will run its course. ends coming up, the college decid-

take around five or six years, but under control. healthy trees can survive this."

"People have asked about the sprayed will be marked. sudden appearance of, shall we All this came to a head as the say, rather a few caterpillars on academic year came to a close. campus and in other parts of town Student message boards were and what's being done about it," full of commentary about the crit-Fitzgerald wrote in a May 9 camters and of finding the best way to puswide e-mail. "No, we're not liv- get across campus. Few students ing in a Hitchcock movie."

on some affected trees. This natural- definitely killed over 1,000 today ly occurring bacterium produces and I can say that not only is it a proteins that interfere with the good procrastination tool, but it insects' digestive systems and leave helps relieve the stress of exams." nontarget organisms unaffected.

The spraying, in turn, sparked a Press was used in this report.

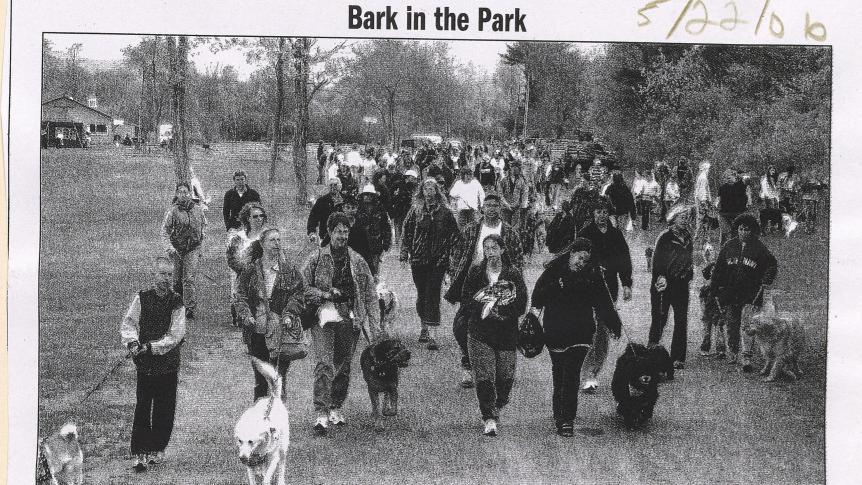
colorfully tongue-in-cheek debate on the college's sidewalks, as outbreaks in Pennsylvania and anonymous students overnight western New York recently, the began making chalk drawings high numbers will remain for a few about the caterpillar crisis. Some years before natural enemies such included pro-caterpillar slogans, as predators and disease catch up such as "Save the Caterpillars," while others took an anti-caterpil-

He said there is no need to panic lar line — "Please Leaf Us Alone." "The trees will refoliate," he ed it had to take more dramatic said. "This is cyclical, and it can measures to get the situation

Tomorrow, crews will begin spray-At Williams, the unusual scope ing certain trees with Conserve SC, of the outbreak began to emerge a pesticide that includes the organic neurotoxin spinosad. Trees that are

had much sympathy for the insects. The college responded by spray- "There is a simple solution to this ing Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki, or problem," posted one student. "If Btk, a natural microbial insecticide, you see a caterpillar, step on it. I've

Material from The Associated



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staf

Walking the dogs

Participants stroll through Burbank Park on Onota Lake in Pittsfield yesterday during the 11th annual Bark in the Park to benefit the Berkshire Humane Society. More than 200 people came to this year's event, which included canine good citizen testing, a Newfoundland water rescue demonstration, a K-9 police dog demonstration, vendor and information tables, and games.



Making compost from garden and household waste is one of the best things any gardener can do. It's easy and costs very little in time or effort.

Making compost will help you reduce pollution - cut down waste going to Waste-to-Energy Facilities and landfills! Your plants will grow healthier and look happier for it. It will save you money on fertilizers too.

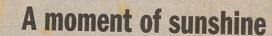
Compost bins are available for \$25 at the Pittsfield Parks Department. Call 499-9343 to arrange pick-up. If you cannot compost, eac Pittsfield (Hubbard Ave.) accepts yard waste in clear plastic bags. Please call eac at 443-7373 for more information.



Making tracks

A 20-year-old male was arrested after he used his pickup truck to vandalize the Reid Middle School baseball field in Pittsfield at 11 p.m. on Tuesday, said James McGrath, the director of the city's parks system. It was the second time this week that the field had been vandalized, McGrath said. The driver, whose name was not available. was caught after a witness wrote down his license plate number.

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff





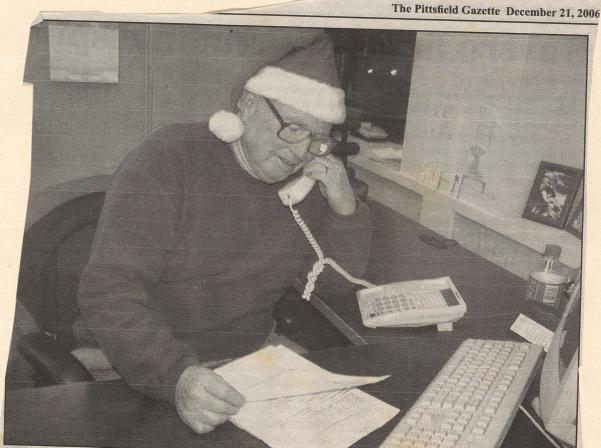
Left, Caty May, 7, of Dalton, far left, Brianna Wilkins, 8, of Hindsdale, Kayla Pravia, 8, and her mother Paula Pravia, of Peru take a relaxing hay ride during Family Fun Day at Eastover Resort in Lenox yesterday. Paula Pravia's fiance Charles Shaw is currently serving in Iraq. Below, Jim McGrath of Pittsfield watches as his son Ian, 3, makes a sticker collage. McGrath is an Army staff



By Jenn Smith

or a few moments, there lifted today. Our goal is to The men, women and chil-

League of Berkshire County women's group and the resort. LENOX "In a small way, your load is was sunshine in their lives. provide your families with the gift of our gratitude for the dren got to go swimming, to sacrifices you and your families



Santa's helpers

Jim Hassett mans a phone Wednesday at Berkshire Bank's West Street office as part of the parks department's "North Pole Calling" program. Using data provided by parents, volunteers placed more than 200 calls on behalf of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Cole Bros. Circus plans two performances

6/29/06

A vegetarian dish of barbe-

are asked to request these dish-

The dinner cost including tax,

tip and music is \$23 for adults, \$12 for children under 10. To

pay in advance send a check

payable to Berkshire Breakfast

Salon to Judith Lerner, P.O. Box

257, Lenox Dale, MA 01242.

es upon making reservations.

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — Roughly nine hours always a popular event. before the Cole Bros. Circus holds its first performance on Monday afternoon, "A lot of people come to watch that. Community Recreation Association at 400 Pittsfield. McGinnis said the sole reason a ritual of circus life is scheduled to take They like to see the animals."

place at the Common on First Street. literally, the raising of the big top under on July 3 and July 4. which the acts will perform.

tomorrow night, but the tent-raising is p.m. and 5 p.m.

"They put in the tent poles," he said.

The July 3 shows are scheduled to take sold at the circus box office. The circus is scheduled to arrive in place at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On July Prices for adults (over age 13) are \$17 for said. Pittsfield from Middlebury, Conn., late 4, the performances are scheduled for 2 reserved seats, and \$15 for regular admis-

Park Square

Enjoy music and

BBQ in Park Square

PITTSFIELD — On Sunday, start, watermelon, homemade July 16, from 6 to 10 p.m., the cookies and brownies for des-Berkshire Beaux Arts Artists' sert and sodas, seltzer and fresh

beque in Park Square catered qued ricotta-stuffed eggplant by Deac and Elaine Tiley and and grilled portabella entree their staff from Bub's BBQ in will be available. Vegetarians

cheddar cornbread, dirty rice, Reservations are required by collard greens, barbequed July 7. Include a phone numbaked beans and orange glazed ber and e-mail address. For sweet potatoes. There will be more information, call Judith

homemade salsa with chips to Lerner at (413) 637-3315.

Dinners and the City of Pitts- lemonade to drink.

field will host its second bar-

Anson Olds and Paul Rice

will play unamplified traditional

fiddle tunes. Dancing is en-

Barbequed pork ribs and

chicken as well as horseradish

and brown sugar glazed sal-

mon are the entrees with lots

couraged.

this year's circus, said the tent raising is Tickets for all four Pittsfield shows are sponsored the Cole Bros. Circus in both Berkshire Mall in Lanesborough and the this is the first time it has been held in

Main St. in Dalton. The Cole Bros. Circus is scheduled to They can also be purchased at Tickets. was because it coincided with this year's This ritual is known as a tent-raising — give two performances at the Common com or by calling 1-888-332-5200. On parade theme, "A Circus Comes to Monday and Tuesday, tickets will only be Town."

Dan McGinnis of the Dalton Lions roughly two hours after Pittsfield's annuior citizens (over age 61) are \$10 and \$15. (413) 496-6224.

Club, the organization that is sponsoring al July 4th parade is scheduled to end. The Dalton Lions Club has previously currently on sale through Sunday at the Dalton and at the Berkshire Mall, but the circus moved to Pittsfield this year

"It was an excellent idea," McGinnis

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached at expected to begin at 7 a.m. on Monday. The first show on July 4 will begin Tickets for children (ages 2-12) and sen-tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com or at



Kickin' around

Joey Macik, 15, performs a trick on his skateboard yesterday at the Common in Pittsfield as Brady Hanford, 11, looks on from his bike.

057 Gazette 50¢

Park dog ban vote expected Monday

Emboldened by a legal opinion, the chairman of the parks commission plans on Monday to seek a vote to ban dogs from all city parks.

"This is a matter of public health and safety," said Charles Garivaltis.

The chairman caused a stir this past month when he proposed banning dogs from Burbank Park, the city's large lakeside property. Following that discussion, he contacted the city's outside legal counsel, Rich Dohoney, for guidance regarding what authority the commission has to regulate animals within park

"The answer is that the commission has full authority to make these kinds of decisions," said Garivaltis.

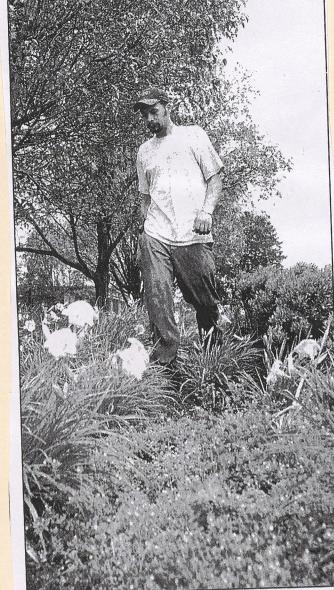
Accordingly, the chairman has modified his initial proposal for a Burbank Park dog ban to incorporate all city-owned park properties. "I'm a park commissioner and

take my responsibility seriously," said Garivaltis. "I'm in the parks

often and no matter where I go I see dog droppings... It is unsanitary and Garivaltis said that the city's 32 parks and conservation areas "shouldn't

be used as a public toilet for animals." The chairman said that pet owners ignore signage related to cleaning up after animals. In fact, he said some people specifically bring animals to city parkland with no regard for those who use fields and playground areas. "I've talked to coaches and athletes who have to take time before each

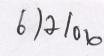
game to police the ball fields," said Garivaltis. The chairman said that the problem occurs citywide. He initially singled See DOG page 19



Gilding lilies

Chris Perry, 27, tends to the yellow lilies in the Pittsfield roundabout on Park Square on Wednesday afternoon.

Art imitates art





Still life with paintbrush

A straw sculpture of a woman painting a scene stands facing southwest from Springside Park in Pittsfield yesterday. The sculpture was created by local artist Mike Melle and was installed in collaboration with Arboreal, a show opening at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts on June 9. According to Pittsfield's Director of Cultural Development Megan Whilden, visitors to the park mistake the sculpture for a living artist and make a point of parking out of 'her line of sight.'

Pittsfield Springside concert series

PITTSFIELD — The Eagles Wind Symphony will present the first in a series of concerts at p.m. The concert will feature favorite marches plus a program including Passacaglia in C Minor, "Mexican Hat Dance," "Bride of the Waves," with cornet solo by Dr. James Stakenas and Irving Attendees may wish to bring a

The Eagles Wind Symphony is conducted by Robert Salzman. accepted.

6-17-06

Judge offers work site for juvenile offenders

Community service at Wild Acres expansion may also be in jeopardy under a cost-cutting proposardy under a cost-cutting proposa

conservation area on South

Mountain Road may be cleaned mer if a Pittsfield judge has his fallen into disrepair over the proached him with his idea of

having juvenile offenders spruce lets I don't think are functional... up the Wild Acres conservation It's not kept up... the metal tower area as part of their community is beginning to rust." service obligations.

there yet," Perachi said. "But it's scheduled to take part of the par- more beneficial," than Wild scheduled to take part of the par- more beneficial," ("Some of

Municipal Airport that contains not be used as an excuse for leta fishing pond, picnic pavilion, ting Wild Acres fall into disre- Tony Dobrowolski can be reached observation tower and nature pair.

trails. It was once used for a vari
Funding to finish the runway or at (413) 496-6224.

ety of family-style activities, Park al suggested by President Bush that could reduce federal funding Commission Chairman Charles slated for safety improvements at PITTSFIELD — A city-run P. Garivaltis said. One of four the state's 43 airports by \$11 milconservation areas under the lion. city's jurisdiction, Wild Acres has Garivaltis said Perachi ap-

Berkshire Juvenile Court Judge "It's a mess," Garivaltis said. Berkshire Juvenile Court Judge "It's a mess," Garivaltis said. function. "The judge is a lifelong Paul E. Perachi is interested in "The grass is overgrown. The toi-friend," Garivaltis said. "We were neighbors 50 years ago."

According to Garivaltis, Wild Perachi said. "I was out there Perachi said last week that he Acres is under the jurisdiction of recently with my grandchildren plans to speak with officials from both the Parks Commission and and I could see that it needed a the Community Corrections de- the Conservation Commission. partment, which helps assists the He isn't sure why the parcel hasinterested in finding work-relat-Perachi said that he is always Juvenile Court probation depart- n't been maintained. "It's proba- ed community service projects ment in scheduling community bly a lack of resources," he said. for juveniles who are involved ervice activities.

Because Wild Acres is located with the courts.

"I haven't sent anyone over behind the airport, the city is "I couldn't think of anything

something that we plan on do-cel when the runway is expanded. Acres, Perachi said. "Some of

Wild Acres is a 49 1/2 acre parcel located north of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport that contains

Wild Acres is a 49 1/2 acre parcel located north of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport that contains

two men met recently at a social

"I happen to remember Wild

at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com

Pittsfield:

Park cleanup

row from 8 to 11 a.m.

boat ramp parking lot.

to bring gloves.

or shine.

scheduled tomorrow

The Lake Onota Preservation

Participants will meet in the

Bags and other tools will be

The event will take place rain

For more information, call (413) 499-9343.

provided; participants are asked

Association is sponsoring a cleanup at Burbank Park tomor-

set to begin

Springside Park on Tuesday at Berlin's Shoppers and Celtic Set. lawn chair.

Admission is free with donations In the event of rain, the concert will be held at First Methodist Church, Fenn Street.

OH GOOD, I WAS HOPING PARKS THIS STUFF DEPT. REGULAR WASTEFUL MIRACLE WAS STILL ON GROW TONIC TEENAGE

Dog ban for city parks will be debated Monday

out Burbank Park because of its heavy use and the number of children who

"You have kids going around barefoot and a lot of people there," he

Garivaltis said he will make a motion during Monday's meeting seeking the ban from all parks.

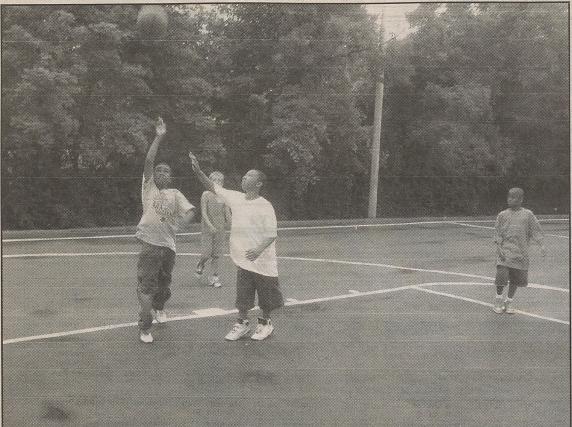
"I hope my colleagues support this motion," he said. If the citywide ban doesn't garner a majority of votes, Garivaltis said he might seek dog bans for particular parks.

"If it does not carry, I would go for Burbank Park at the top of my list and Kirvin Park as the other," he said. "That's where I've seen and heard the most problems." Since the Gazette first reported Garivaltis' dog-ban goal, the chairman

said he has been inundated with feedback. "I have received considerable calls, many of them are critical of me," he said. "But what I've told people is you may be one of the people that does leash your dog and pick up after your dog, but most people don't... If we can solve this problem in one fell swoop, it would be of considerable

Garivaltis said part of the problem right now may be a lack of clarity about practices. He said that an outright ban eliminates any confusion. "With an outright ban, that's a clear and sound directive," he said. "If you see a dog, then it's easy to say it's not allowed in the park.

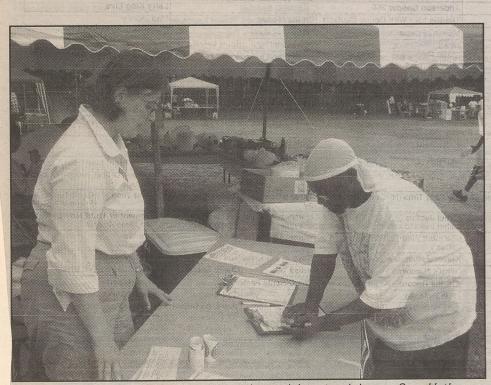
When Garivaltis broached this topic in July, other commissioners agreed that the problem is pervasive but seemed reluctant to take action. Sheila LaBarbera and Mike Filpi advocated that any dog ban be accompanied by the development of a designated dog park—a fenced area where owners can take pets.



Overcast skies followed by rain kept attendance low at Saturday's Gather-In festival at Pitt Park. Damp conditions prevented competitive basketball games, but these youngsters still enjoy some hoop action.

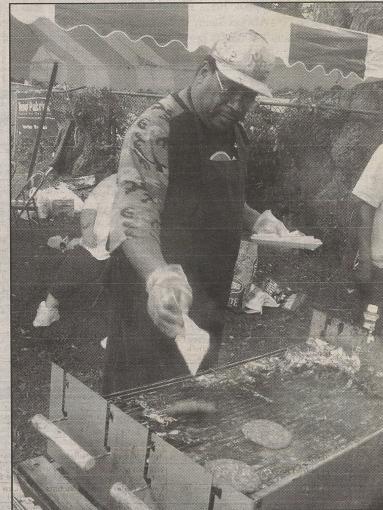


Free horse and pony rides sponsored by Sunny Banks Ranch once again prove a popular attraction at the neighborhood festival.

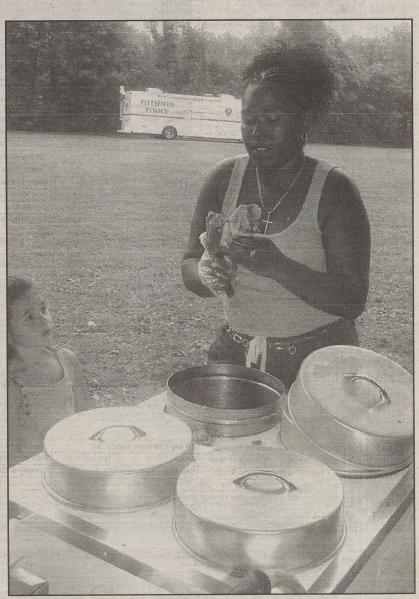


The weather and small crowd kept campaign activity at a minimum. Sara Hathaway mans a booth on behalf of gubernatorial candidate Deval Patrick. Ronald Johnson signs a pledge card for the Democrat.

Rain Rain Stay Away



Willie Borden mans the grill at the Gather-In concession sponsored by Price Memorial AME Zion Church.



Sandy Deare prepares a flavored ice treat.

TAIL I WE HEREBOR IR

Problems underfoot at city parks

On the Web: www.BerkshireEagle.com

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Friday, August 4, 2006



Caroline Bonnivier / Berkshire Eagle Staff Brady charges ahead of Bridgette at Kirvin Park in Pittsfield recently. Their owners, Jim and Nicki Creer, not pictured, chaperoned them at the park.

Soiled grounds prompt Pittsfield dog ban proposal

By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

pick up what their pooches might leave ban dogs from Pittsfield's 29 parks and

pings that he has seen in the city's parks this summer, Charles P. Gari-PITTSFIELD — A sign at Kirvin valtis, Parks Commission chairman, Park on Williams Street warns dog owners to keep pets on a leash and further. He plans to ask the board to

playgrounds.
"The parks should not be a public But some dog owners aren't playing by the rules, says the chairman of the toilet facility for dogs," Garivaltis said.

ignoring the warning even though they face fines for an unleashed dog or left-behind droppings.

A "dog ban discussion" is listed on the agenda for the Parks Commission meeting scheduled Monday at 7 p.m.

And based on the amount of drop-in the Springside House, 874 North St.

A "dog ban discussion" is listed on the agenda for the Parks Commission meeting scheduled Monday at 7 p.m.

Garivaltis' idea didn't go over big with one dog owner, Carl Morrison of BAN, continued on A5

BerkshireForums 🖨 com

Comment on the city's plan to ban dogs at its parks. Go to The Eagle's new online discussion board, BerkshireForums. Find the link at www.berkshireeagle.com.

city's Parks Commission. They're "That's what they've turned out to be." Garivaltis said he will propose that see-

Oxford Street, who was walking his 14-week-old red and white husky, "Oz-zie," at Clapp Park on West Housatonic Street yesterday afternoon. "Why can't my dog walk in the park

as long as I pay my taxes?" Morrison said. "Look at all the trash," he pointed out. Morrison said he picks up after his dog, but understands why Garivaltis is

upset about the amount of dog droppings because he sees them, too. But Morrison feels that banning

Ethnic fair scheduled for Sunday, August 27

"It's really where the old one used to be," said Filpi.

Whilden said that the return of the ethnic fair has been the No. 1 suggestion she's heard from people.

"Basically ever since I came on board in this position, people have been telling me how wonderful the ethnic fairs were," she said. "People keep saying we should bring it back."

Whilden said that groups have until June 16 to commit to participate. Businesses and individuals may also sign up for booths.

"There's a lot of interest and enthusiasm," she said. "I think it will be a great celebration of the diversity here and we welcome participation from throughout the Berkshires... We're looking for people or organizations who want to have a booth to sell traditional food or crafts.'

The end-of-summer date was selected to allow ample planning time and to provide the event with its own niche.

"We wanted to keep it spaced out from other big events and give enough time to organize it well," she said.

Eleanor Persip, chairwoman of the parks commission, is impressed by the effort to revive the event. "I think it's great, we haven't had one for years," she said 1/0 h

Councilors deem crime exhibit inappropriate for Park Square

The furor over a planned month- to stop this project."

the child abuse awareness display Costi said that any group should not in the best interest of downtown

see "messages of empowerment" a month is a very bad precedent to ing very hard to display downtown written on the tape and on the vic- set," he said.

Costi, who owns a downtown death scene for a month." building, said he's been struck by the strong opposition to the plan.

certainly the merchants on North Kerwood, voicing "strong opposi- would be taken this week because Street are very against it," he said. tion" and urging that the commis- "we're not at liberty to discuss it at Street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it, "he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it, "he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it, "he said. Hor and dights that the street are very against it," he said. Hor and dights the street are very against it.

long April exhibit of a "mock crime" Costi said that the exhibit will add "While bringing attention to the isscene" at Park Square continued this to a false perception, particularly sue of child abuse is a worthy objecamong visitors, of an unsafe down-tive and the efforts of the Kids Place

planned by the Kids Place and the be allowed to protest at Park Square Pittsfield and Park Square," wrote but no one should be permitted to Kerwood. The display includes mock yellow leave political statements erected at He continued: "As the commission police tape and victim outlines. Those the park after they depart. "To set is well aware, downtown and its surwho look up close at the display will up a protest and leave it there for rounding neighborhoods are work-

"I was dismayed when I read board was "blind sided" by the pro- such as the one proposed has the pothis board had approved that," said posal and didn't grasp the implication tential of sending the wrong message Costi. "I think it sets a very bad tions for the downtown community, to those who may not be aware of its but that's not a reason "to set up a intended purpose."

Strong opposition "I'm very much against it and letter from at-large councilor Matt sideration." Persip said no action

Ward 2 city councilor Lou Costi town. 'This will tell people there's are to be supported, the installation on Monday urged the parks com- a lot of violent crime in Pittsfield," of a month long 'exhibit' such as the

The councilor said that perhaps the and enjoy. Unfortunately an 'exhibit'

Chairwoman Eleanor Persip said the commission welcomes the feed-The commission also accepted a back and "we'll take it under con-



in the sun Zach Gibbs, 15, takes a

ride on the rail at the skateboard park in the Common in Pittsfield

Dog ban proposed at parks

BAN from A1

You're not going to stop people for comment. don't obey the rules, Morrison said. "They come to the ing about a dog ban after walking park and they're going to do what through Burbank Park on Onota they do, and that's the way they Lake with his grandchildren earli-

Two of the board's four other droppings all over the place," he members also weren't sure they said. agreed with Garivaltis' proposal. "It's not a matter of being for it Garivaltis proposed banning dogs or against it," John P. Herman from just Burbank Park, but the said. "When you're looking at commission did not take action reality, I don't see it as enforce- because the measure was brought

"Who's going to enforce it?" he commission also did not know at

said. "A dog-poop patrol?" compared the enforcement of a legal counsel has since informed their dogs in Pittsfield's parks. canine ban in city parks to placing him that the Parks Commission signs at lakes that prohibit swim- does have that right. ming after 10 p.m.

"It sounds good," he said. Instead of a total ban, Herman authority if it wishes," he said. said he would be more in favor of "But there has to be a vote." having dogs limited to just a couAccording to the city code, the Park. ple of city parks, or have special owner or keeper of any dog that areas set aside for dog walking.

Commission member John C. officer to have defecated on pri-Marchesi, who doesn't own a dog, vate property other than its ownis uncertain about the proposal at ers, or to have done the same on a

"I'm not sure one way or the other," he said.

that occurs within the same calen-

Under state law, the owners or The board's two other members, keepers of unrestrained dogs face Michael P. Filpi and Sheila civil penalties that can escalate to criminal charges depending on the LaBarbera, could not be reached extent of the infraction, Central Garivaltis said he began think-Berkshire District Court Clerk Magistrate Leo F. Evans said Evans said those infractions don't reach the court system unless er this summer. "There were dog county residents fail to respond to notices issued by the elected officials of their respective communi-At the board's last meeting,

"I've never heard of an ordinance that's specific to pooping,"

Garivaltis said he believes that up as new business. He said the city residents ignore "with impunithe time if it had the authority to ty" regulations that require them Herman, whose son has a dog, enforce a dog ban. Garivaltis said to both leash and pick up after

He said coaches of teams that play at Clapp Park have told him "Legal counsel said that the that they have had to pick up dog [Parks] Commission has the full droppings from the ball fields before their games can begin. The same problems exist at Kirvin

"We designed a soccer field for has been found by the city's dog \$175,000," at Kirvin, Garivaltis said, "and it's turned into a dog

public sidewalk, can be issued Tony Dobrowolski can be reached fines ranging from \$5 for a first at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com offense to \$40 for a fourth offense or at (413) 496-6224.

Protect identity of Springside Park

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-I am a member of the Friends of name and nature of the park. 100 volunteers worked from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the rain, cleaning could be named "Doyle Complex trash, large and small debris, bicycle parts, and helping make it a beautiful open space natural preserve for the free public use of all the people

of Pittsfield and the Berkshires. Working on the park's terrain all day makes each of us appreciate the unique natural treasure we have in Springside. For that reason we appreciate the letter from former Pittsfield Mayor Robert Capeless regarding the retention of the name Springside Park for all public

We also appreciate the donations and long-term contributions to Pittsfield by individuals and organizations over the years. The issue we raise is not against the ballfields and playground that are part of the park, nor the generous organizations that sponsor them. However, the public signage at the ballfield complex near Benedict Road and the new boundless playground near Springside Avenue

have signs that misrepresent the

the so-called "Doyle Park" area excessive profits. Springside name prominent so the public and overall nature of the park is clear to all who use it. Similarly, the new special-needs playground near Springside Avenue should not be named "Rotary Park" but "Rotary Playground at Spring-

side Park." We hope that the benevolent citizens and organizations of our area The new bill does not even come will also share as we do the selfless vision and commitment to the peo- a single-payer system. ple of Pittsfield and the Berkshires that the Miller family demonstrated Park in 1909-10, and lived out through their heritage of giving.

ROYAL HARTIGAN Pittsfield, April 22, 2006

the state. Many will purchase subquality health insurance policies as a result. The successful benefits of Medicare may be compromised as a result of this bill.

Industry lobbyists spent over Springside Park, a group that has To name fields and playgrounds \$7.5 million this year, in this state given its time and energy to the as parks in themselves distorts the alone, to make this new health park unofficially since the 1960s identity of the park and its nature care bill work for them. More unand officially since 1990. We just as a public trust, not a private cominsured people will be forced into completed a cleanup of the park modity. If there have to be names purchasing low quality insurance so on Earth Day, Saturday. Almost associated with parts of the park, companies will continue to make

Every developed nation except most parts of the park, hauling at Springside Park" with the U.S. offers comprehensive health care for all of its citizens. If we had a single-payer health care system, the billions of dollars currently going to insurance companies for their profit would go directly to health benefits for all citizens. Costs for health care would be dramatically reduced.

It seems time to stand up for universal, quality health care for all. close to approaching the benefits of

Web sites such as www.berk shiremasscare.org, www.pnhp.org when they began the donations of Or www.healthcare-now.org can many sites, including Springside help us all understand what can be possible for universal health care for all our citizens. **ELIZABETH NEALE** Hinsdale, April 22, 2006

Friends of Springside Park on Saturday.

PITTSFIELD — The Friends of officially adopting the Friends of

Springside Park held a cleanup Springside name in 1990. Many of Saturday in conjunction with its 2,500 members have worked in Despite inclement weather, The Friends have conducted

the park since the 1950s.

more than 100 volunteers worked cleanups and beautification projfrom 8 to 3, covering all areas of ects, created nature trails, cleared the park. Debris included bicycles, brush, mowed lawns, held nature street signs, a washer, mattress walks and talks, and presented edusprings, a lawn mower and a myri-cational and cultural events at the ad of cups, cans, bottles and papers. park, including band concerts, work-The group has worked since shops, string quartet recitals and 1980 to maintain Springside Park, jazz performances. For information, a free open-space natural preserve, call Ryan Bates at (413) 822-0442.

Pittsfield

Knitters

Knit in Public Day.

to meet in

Park Square

Berkshire County Knitters invites all knitters to meet on Satur-

day from 1 to 3 p.m. in Park Square for the second annual World Wide

Knitters are asked to bring an item that they are knitting, a fold-

ing chair if desired as well as their

enthusiasm for the craft as knitters around the world congregate simul-

Berkshire County Knitters is an informal group of county-wide fiber

artists that meet weekly to discuss

the art of knitting, get inspired and

Information: call Abi Gregorio

Connors at (413) 442-9107 or visit

the Berkshire County Knitters

Web site at www.berkshirecoun-

tyknitters.com. 6/9/06

taneously to knit in public.

exchange ideas.

Pitt Park shooter sentenced

man has been sentenced to two erly at a Springfield mall, where he attorney, Edward West. years in jail after he admitted to was found carrying a cane conceal- Agostini ordered Daniels to serve boyfriend of being the gunman in opening fire on two Pittsfield men ing a double-edged knife. near a children's playground at On Friday, Daniels, whose last Jail and House of Correction. After Pitt Park during the afternoon of known address was 33 Memorial his release, Daniels will remain on tims also had been arrested as a

Corbet, 31, and Terrell Ortiz, 27, Agostini to double counts of assault the motives of the witnesses, who was injured when Mark A. by means of a dangerous weapon claimed that Daniels had been the Daniels, 24, shot at them from the and to single counts of carrying a gunman during the shooting. One John Street entrance of the West firearm without a license and of dis-witness, Edward Bigelow, 23, had arrested Ortiz shortly after the

Daniels fled the scene in a red of a dwelling. Toyota Solara driven by his girlTwo counts of armed assault with sion. He later pleaded guilty in stopped the car and found a .45-

Drive, pleaded guilty before Berk- three years' probation.

friend, Lashaunda Beverly, before intent to murder were dismissed April and received a two- to three-caliber handgun in his possession.

Pittsfield Police arrived. He remain- under the plea agreement reached year prison sentence. ed on the run for 10 days before between Assistant District Attorney PITTSFIELD - A Pittsfield authorities arrested him and Bev- Robert W. Kinzer III and Daniels' charges are still pending in

his sentence at the Berkshire County the incident

Neither of the targets, Steven shire Superior Court Judge John A. Previously, West had questioned charging a firearm within 500 feet been arrested when police found shooting when he jumped into a

Beverly, 23, whose accessory Superior Court, also accused her

Notably, one of the shooting vicresult of the incident. Ortiz received a two- to three-year jail sentence after pleading guilty in July to firearm charges. Police had 44 packets of heroin in his posses- 2003 Chevrolet Trail Blazer. Police



Careful cultivation

Pittsfield Beautiful volunteer May Hickey tends to a bed of flowers yesterday on First Street outside The Common in Pittsfield



1/21/0



I can do this with both eyes closed Billy Ellis, 4, of Pittsfield attempts an acrobatic catch while playing frisbee at Onota Lake in Pittsfield yesterday afternoon.

New playground already wins fans

Boundless possibilities Pittsfield's newest and

will be formally dedicated Saturday morning. A ceremony at 10 a.m. will mark the official opening of the Rotary Boundless Playground at

Springside Park. The playground - which includes features that make it accessible to kids with wheelchairs and other impediments — has already gained fans. The Rotary Club of Pittsfield spearheaded the design and funding of the \$400,000

"It's truly a wonderful gift to the community," said parks commission chairman Charles Garivaltis. "Pittsfield is very fortunate to have such a community-minded civic organization that has lived up to its own motto, 'Service Above

Christine Singer, executive director of United Cerebral Palsy of the Berkshires and one of the original advocates for the accessible playground, said the dedication ceremony culminates more than four years of work for a team of more than 60 volunteers.

"It's been unbelievable to see the response," said Singer. "For me, this is probably the most special project I've ever worked on."



Project I've ever worked on." Ethan Audet, age 5, enjoys the colorful boundless playground A group of advocates for the at Springside Park. The \$400,000 play structure — designed to disabled initiated the project in serve almost all children, including those with wheelchairs—will June 2002, seeking to emulate the be formally dedicated Saturday. The Rotary Club of Pittsfield See PLAYGROUND page 11 shepherded the project.

The Pittsfield Gazette August 24, 2006



The boundless playround at Springside Park is the city's newest and most handicapped-accessible

Playground promotes accessibility

too large an undertaking for those truly fabulous playground." social agencies.

of Rotary International.

dertaken such a large project.

promote the project through UCP and she said. "It was a very long road to some challenges, but that's true of Berkshire County ARC, but it proved get to this point, but now we have this any project."

Along the way the price tag in- been unofficially open, it has drawn The Rotary Club took the lead role creased, with the Rotary ultimately streams of kids and families. to make the project become a reality, needing to raise nearly \$400,000. Singer said that she's received adopting the playground as its com- Since the playground is on city constant feedback including from

"boundless" playground concept "I remember standing in front of "That added time and cost," said members had seen in other com- my fellow Rotarians and saying we Knisley. "We had to raise more and are going to raise \$250,000 and build also had to sacrifice some features." The boosters initially attempted to this fabulous playground for kids," Singer agreed "there have been

In the months that the structure has

memoration of the 100th anniversary property – next to the North Little members of the disabled community. League field — and will be owned "I've heard from people who didn't Pam Knisley, who was Rotary by the city, the city determined that get to play when they were younger president when the club launched all aspects of the construction would because of their disability and they're the fundraising drive, said that the have to be bid, including labor and rejoicing to see the opportunities kids organization had never before un-services Rotarians had planned to now have," she said. "I've also had phone calls from family members of

Motorists are driving too fast near "Anditdoesn't guarantee it will make place for everyone."

On Wednesday afternoon, several parents joined their kids in trying out

cially with the new boundless play- Collingwood said that the typi- in the city, especially because of the ground," said ward 2 councilor Lou cal study costs between \$4,000 and ramps," said Kayla Keefner. The Costi. "I think the whole speed limit \$5,000. He said that the city just ramps allow her 18-month-son, increased his department's "profes- Ayden, to scurry around without

fic on Springside Avenue changes at number of the pending studies that design of the play structure, which is based on suggestions kids made front of the playground and the North Faced with the prospect of a producing a 2003 public meeting at the

"It starts 35 miles per hour, then at ment, Costi said that at a minimum "I like it a lot," said Riopelle. "It's the top of the hill is 25 miles per hour the city should erect new signage something for the kids that's very and when it gets to the playground, and perhaps painted warnings on creative... It features lots of colors it goes up to 35 miles per hour," said the road to highlight the presence of and different activities, which are all part of the learning process."

Costi this week asked the traffic "This is a very dangerous situa- Riopelle—who also takes her kids "This one is more educational and

a representative from the National

"You just don't change speed that the city trim trees that he said ley. "All the families in Pittsfield

Speed limit near playground a concern the non-disabled who see it as special

the new boundless playground at it better." Springside Park, according to the city Maffuccio noted that speed studies the structures that allow climbing,

multiple locations, including right in need to be done." Little League baseball field.

Costi. "That makes no sense."

cap for all westbound traffic. Ward 7 councilor Anthony Maffuc- Police captain John O'Neil modi- they also think it's fun," she said. During Monday's meeting, he asked related to the playground. public works commissioner Bruce The third commission member Center for Boundless Playgrounds.

councilor who represents the area. cost money and a backlog of requests jumping, crawling and sliding. "It's very busy westbound, espe- is a perennial issue at City Hall. "It's one of the best playgrounds

Costi is especially concerned that sional services" budget which will having to be lifted. the speed limit for westbound traf- allow a consultant to "take care of a Marguerite Riopelle praises the

> tracted wait for a speed limit adjust- Berkshire Athenaeum. the playground.

commission to implement a more unition," said Costi. "We've got a lot of and nephew to newer playgrounds at form Springside Avenue speed limit. children crossing that street to get to Clapp and Deming parks — said the He recommended a 30 mile per hour the playground and people are flying boundless playground is the best. down that road."

cio who chairs the traffic commis- fied Costi's formal petition to elimi- Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremosion, said that the city must follow a nate the speed study request and ny will feature remarks by Rotary lengthy process to adjust speed limits. instead call for improved signage officials, Mayor James Ruberto and

Collingwood to outline the process. present, Peter White, also requested "This is now a reality," said Knis-

limits," said Collingwood. The state obscure the existing 35 miles per and Berkshire County and beyond highway department must be con- hour speed limit sign. "It's almost can come to this fabulous place and sulted and a speed study conducted: completely blocked," said White. play side by side."

School. "It's worth everything just knowing that you made a difference in the new class of volunteers in Start Playground and implementthe community," Robinson said. what they have accomplished.

"I like to see all-American young tion process. people do country service," she said.

We need good people around." Closing in on a decade of partic- the VISTA program. ipation, the Retired & Senior Vol-VISTA placements.

More to come

been so impressed by the volun- through the project. teers' work that he and the City Council approved funds for four great resource," said Marsha struct its Fourth of July parade VISTA positions, which officials hope to fill this fall.

with the quality of VISTA volungram at Conte. teers. They brought a determination to really dig deep into the lot of patience and [give a lot of] through calendar advertising, rafcommunity, and Pittsfield is the time to the children." ultimate beneficiary," Ruberto

The new allocations will allow said that Friends Read afforded and these girls have been great. I'm

continue. Placements also will be receive individual attention offered at the city's Office of Cul- "It really adds to the enrichment

"We hope to expand upon the nator at Egremont Elementary role that youth can play in city volunteers and volunteered in the administration," Ruberto said.

Doyle's mother, Judy, has en- that the new "Vistas," as they've and beautification project. joyed watching the girls form a been dubbed, won't be in place friendship and said she is proud of until after Labor Day because of administrative delays in the selec-

But the administration is cer-

During the past year, Robinson unteer Program (RSVP) of Berk- and Doyle coordinated the Friends coordination duties, the pair shire County has been the only Read youth literacy project for 82 designed and produced the 2006 place in the city that has offered students and 35 senior volunteers Senior Resource Calendar, which at Egremont, at Capeless Elemen- was distributed free to thousands tary and Conte Community schools, of Berkshire County seniors. and at the Catholic Youth Center. Mayor James M. Ruberto has A total of 1,889 books were read ence," Doyle said.

Karlson of the Friends Read pro- float and spent countless hours gram. She is the director of the working alongside seniors. We are so fortunate this year day- and after-school care pro-

> The Conte program had 36 youngsters this year, and Karlson Powers said. "They're indispensable,

ple, Doyle volunteered at Berk-ment of Community Services/Parks Robinson and Doyle also collabshire Medical Center and at Word & Recreation as well as the mayorated on the Sponsor-a-Park Street, a tutoring and literary arts or's office. The city also plans to project, which included the bridge center on North Street. Robinson offer rent-free housing for VISTA plantings on First and South became an active member of the volunteers at the former Spring-streets, Holmes Road and the Head Start Playground.

In addition, they coordinated Common Park for raking, weeding Although he had hoped to have gardens, mulching for the Head place this month, the mayor said ing a Saturday Park Blitz cleanup

'Available 24/7'

But some of their most important work was done at RSVP.

"Our responsibility here is to be tainly not the only beneficiary of available 24/7 for community needs," Robinson said. Besides tag-teaming volunteer

"It was a whole new experi-

They worked on recruiting vol-"It's just wonderful. It's such a unteers for RSVP, helped con-

And, according to RSVP Director Normalyn Powers, they raised She said the volunteers have "a between \$12,000 and \$14,000 fles and fundraisers.

"We've just been lucky as ducks," the VISTA program at RSVP to the children more opportunities to really going to miss them."

City parks are going to the dogs

Pittsfield's parks contribute to the appeal of the city, but that appeal is being diminished by irresponsible dog owners who, in the words of Parks Commission Chairman Charles P. Gari- A step toward a better airport valtis, allow their animals to use the parks as a "public toilet facility." This ruins the park for athletic teams and anyone who just wants to enjoy them for their natural beauty. Tonight, the Parks Commission will discuss a proposal to ban dogs from the city's 29 parks and playgrounds, a controversial plan that will be criticized as unenforceable. But if the city can spend \$175,000 to design a soccer field that is now pockmarked with dog excrement it can find the money to enforce laws requiring owners to keep their dogs on leashes and clean up after them. Counter-proposals such as banning dogs from some parks or setting up separate areas for dogs will undoubtedly be discussed, but the bottom line is if the city is not going to

crack down on lazy, indifferent dog owners it should take down the signs regarding dog behavior in parks and let the animals do whatever they please wherever they please.

Pittsfield's \$40 million airport expansion project isn't moving quickly, but it is moving. Representative Christopher Speranzo and Senator Andrea Nuciforo, both Pittsfield Democrats, were instrumental in pushing through a bill late in the legislative session allowing a key land swap, and Governor Romney has signed it into law. The state will now transfer 21 acres of the Wild Acres conservation area to the city for a runway expansion area, with Wild Acres compensated by 84 acres of city land. An improved airport will benefit the many Berkshire businesses that engage in commerce outside of the area while attracting new businesses reliant on efficient airport service. Every step in the direction of a better airport is a big one for the city.



Beautifying Pittsfield

elicea Robinson, left, and Megan Doyle tend to flowers on the South Street bridge in Pittsfield on Wednesday. The Florida state residents have vorked for a year with the Berkshire Retired and Senior Volunteer Program through the Volunteers in Service to America program.

Changing Berkshire vistas

Program benefits participants, area

By Jenn Smith

PITTSFIELD — For the past month, many passers-by have been I wouldn't have changed any of it." enjoying the beautiful vistas of the baskets of blossoms hanging along Pittsfield's bridges.

But what many also do not know night's City Council meeting. is that the beautification project is the product of two young women adults with community-based agenwho have dedicated the past year cies to help find long-term solutions to building their own bridges of to the problems caused by urban goodwill in our community.

Doyle arrived in Pittsfield from tion of their activities. their home state of Florida last August through an AmeriCorps Robinson and Doyle took time to program called Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

dale and Doyle, 22, of Tallahassee had never been to the Berkshires. "For me, the whole thing happened in three weeks. I applied,

took the offer, [and] packed,"

Doyle said. "I had never even

heard of Pittsfield. But in the end, The two, who will wrap up their yearlong volunteer effort this week, will be honored at tomorrow The program's purpose is to place

and rural poverty. Participants are Felicea Robinson and Megan asked to keep detailed documenta-

Besides these responsibilities,

VOLUNTEERS. continued on A4

Groups at a glance

The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is a program of AmeriCorps. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, and can choose a field of

A yearlong commitment includes a living stipend, health coverage and student loan deferment. It can pay up to \$4,725 for education or to pay back student loans, or a \$1,200 cash stipend.

Formed in 1965, the program has produced more than 120,000 volunteers nationwide. The Massachusetts Service Alliance has had a longtime association with AmeriCorps and VISTA.

(800) 942-2677.

Information: www.americorps.gov or

It is part of Senior Corps, a national organization funded in part by the Corporation for National & Community Service. Prospective volunteers meet with a volunteer coordinator to discuss what kind of opportunities are available. Volunteers may choose a permanent or temporary assignment. Participants are required to volunteer

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program,

16 Bartlett Ave., Pittsfield, (413)

499-9345, spia@pittsfieldch.com.

RSVP is a sort of clearinghouse for

volunteers who tend to be age 55

About RSVP:

for a minimum of 12 hours per year. Information: www.seniorcorps.org or (800) 424-8867.

Commissioner proposes Burbank Park dog ban

The chairman of the parks commission wants to ban dogs from Burbank Park.

Chuck Garivaltis suggested the canine restriction for the lakeside park during the board's Monday meeting. "I'm thinking of the cleanliness of the environment and the folks who go

down there," said Garivaltis. "It's unsanitary, it's unhealthy." The chairman said he's concerned about unleashed dogs at the park but his primary

issue involves feces which he says dog owners are failing to clean up. "It's being abused by folks who liter-

ally do not care, even though there are signs," he said. Garivaltis' proposal — brought up as new business not on the agenda - received a mixed reaction from fellow

droppings are a problem at Burbank and other city parks. Sheila LaBarbera would be amenable to a dog ban at Burbank if the city creates a designated dog park, a concept she has

commissioners. But all agreed that dog

long championed. "If you have a dog park and a place for people to take their dogs and walk them, then you can ban them in other

LaBarbera said the problem at Burbank is "legitimate" and she has heard numerous complaints regarding other properties, including Kirvin Park. "You give people an alternative," she said. "You should take a dog to the park for exercise and not to use as a bathroom."

John Herman said that he knows people who "purposely" bring dogs to nearby parks so they don't have to clean up after their pet. Herman said that any policy needs to have an enforcement mechanism

"If you don't have a fine attached to it or some punishment, it's toothless," said Herman. Garivaltis said that the problem of dog droppings is a citywide issue but he thinks Burbank Park presents particular concerns.

7 120 106 See DOG page 3 BERKSHIRE SUM

Forget ban, create dog park

To The Editor of THE EAGLE: After reading the dog-banning a puppy, I began bringing him to article on Aug. 4, I can understand the park to socialize with the other the city not wanting parks to be- dogs. Socializing helps them to be come "dog toilets." I agree that friendly, un-aggressive and wellmany owners let their dogs defe- behaved around other animals. cate in the fields, but the rest of us Where else in this city can dog should not be punished because of owners go to let their dogs run and

the irresponsible ones. Many cities around the country have dog parks — enclosed areas where dogs are free to run and play. The dog-owning community gets together, pools its money and time, and creates a beautiful environment that keeps the dogs and the city happy. Instead of proposing a ban on dogs, Pittsfield could propose creating a dog park. Every year when we register our dogs we would save the taxpayers money snow to play in during the winter.

and make the dog owners happy. ends when I bring my German good luck enforcing it! Shepherd for a three-mile walk through Kirvin Park and the sur-

rounding trails. When my dog was socialize off-leash?

Being set back from the road, Kirvin Park is a safe and beautiful place to bring dogs. The dogs there are like a small family. At any time of the day, you will see between two and 10 dogs walking and playing with their owners. We may not know each other's names, but we know the names of the other dogs! During the hot days of could pay an extra fee which would summer our dogs have a beautiful be used to maintain the park. That stream to cool off in, and acres of

I am asking for the city to recon-Just like humans, dogs need exer-sider this ban, and for all the other cise to stay fit and live long, healthy dog owners to write letters. If the lives. I look forward to the week- ban actually goes through, I saym

JESSICA SALVINI Pittsfield, Aug. 5, 2006

Pittsfield

Dog ban meeting: New site

PITTSFIELD — The Park at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Commission has changed the The board was originally sched-

site of next week's meeting to uled to discuss a dog ban on Mon-

discuss a possible dog ban in the day, but the meeting had to be

city's parks from the Springside canceled because notice was not

House at 874 North Street to the posted in the time period pre-

City Council chambers in City scribed by the state's open meet-

The meeting will still take place

Parks panel

postpones dog debate

Pittsfield

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — The Parks Commission was forced to reschedule last night's meeting to consider a possible dog ban in the city's parks and playgrounds because public notice of the meeting had not been given 48 hours in advance.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. "[The Parks and Recreation Department] did not post a meeting, so we cannot have a meeting," said Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis, who was unable to

reschedule it for later this week. Garivaltis said the failure to post the meeting notice was "beyond belief," considering that the dog ban proposal has sparked a tremendous amount of interest in the city and that the Parks Commission meets routinely on the first and third Mondays of

every month. "It's an automatic thing" to post the meeting notices, Garivaltis said. By state law, public meetings must be posted at least 48 hours in advance. According to City Clerk Jody L. Phillips, her office

receives notification of Parks Commission meetings from the Parks and Recreation Department. "It was just an administrative oversight," said Community Services Director James McGrath, who runs the Parks and Recreation Department. "I'll take

the blame for that." Because of the amount of dog droppings that Garivaltis has seen in the city's parks this summer, he has proposed banning dogs from the 29 city parks and playgrounds over which the commission has jurisdiction. Pittsfield also has four conservation areas, but

they are not under the commission's control. Tony Dobrowolski can be reached at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com or at (413) 496-6224.

Dog ban proposed for Burbank

"There's swimmers, kids, bare feet, parents, picnics and the like," he said. "There's no solution to it other than saying you just can't do it."

parks," she said.

Pittsfield at the pump

This Week \$3.059 Month Ago \$2.980 Year Ago \$2.417 Source: AAA

Retail price one gallon

regular including taxes 7/19/06

a specific ban on dogs in the park, Garivaltis said that creating an members of the public will be able ordinance and posting a ban would to challenge offenders. "We'll get the make it easier for corrective action. help of the public," he said.

The chairman said that if there is communities that have these kind of park." swimming facilities have [banned Filpi said the goal is laudable but

dogs]." health and safety.

park might just shift the problem a law on the books would be a first elsewhere. "They'll only go to the step. "It's a lot easier to say so when closest park, adding to the burden it's illegal," he said.

nent to any solution. He also raised questions about tant to gather community input. how the city would enforce a dog Garivaltis said he would pursue

officer of the law up there."

"We'll codify it," he said. "If we just Garivaltis said that Burbank Parkis have a sign that says this is illegal... "literally beautiful" and shouldn't be We may be able to make an impact turned into a toilet for pets. "We're not on cleaning up Burbank Park to the alone in doing this," he said. "Other benefit of the children who use the

signage alone wouldn't address the The chairman said that policy issue. "We've got signs at parks with might prove unpopular but that "a the doggie [waste] bags," he noted, little grief for the parks commission" but pet owners still don't use the is a small price to pay for improving clean-up bags. "People don't read signs, they do what they want to." Mike Filpi said that a ban at one Garivaltis reiterated that having

Filpi said that the commission Filpi supports the dog park con- would need a ruling from the city cept, saying it is an essential compo-solicitor's office on how to proceed. He also said that it would be impor-

ban. "I'm not sure it's enforceable," options and likely schedule the topic he said. "You're not going to get an for a future commission meeting." "I'll check the legalities," he said.

o Play on

— Tony Dobrowolski

After years of neglect, Pittsfield playgrounds are finally getting some

In the past year, the city has installed quality play structures at several parks, including Clapp, Deming and a "tot spot" on Robbins Avenue. Those initiatives are dwarfed, however, by the boundless playground

officially opening this weekend on Springside Avenue. Kids and parents discovered the colorful play structures months ago, but Saturday marks the official dedication organized by the playground's

primary sponsor, the Rotary Club of Pittsfield. The total price tag for the first phase of this family oasis is \$400,000. Best of all, the playground is the first in the region designed to be accessible for kids with disabilities, so they can play alongside their peers. Special padding, for example, allows wheel chairs to approach equipment and ramps

make it easier for those with limited mobility to access components. The Rotary Club and the other believers in this unique playground deserve thanks. Here's hoping this project is just one piece of an ongoing emphasis

on maintaining and enhancing playgrounds in Pittsfield.

Parks debate goes beyond dog ban

Alternative solutions for pooch problem proposed able to provide dispensers at all the remaining parks, but will place them at areas where they are needed most. received an e-mail yesterday from one city resident who is willing to join a committee, and that he will

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — Judging from comments expres- The game's not over." sed by residents at Tuesday night's Parks Commission from the city's 29 parks and playgrounds.

Two independent dog-ban polls, conducted by commission member John P. Herman and Ward 4 Councilor Michael L. Ward, provide similar results.

Although the idea of a dog ban may be dead — "I He said the Parks and Recreation Department leashed while in the city's parks have just begun.

score is Dogs 1, Pittsfield 0. But there's a ways to go. walkers, like Springside Park," he said.

Garivaltis and Community Services Director James meeting, there is no public support for banning dogs McGrath said yesterday that information gathered at resolve the dog cleanup and leash issues.

'Mutt mitts' to be widely available

Charles P. Garivaltis said yesterday — efforts to get dog mitts" — plastic bags that allow owners to clean up pick up after their pets and keep them leashed. owners to clean up after their pets and keep them after their dogs — remain full. Those dispensers are Forming a committee of residents to tackle these located at just four city parks — Burbank, Clapp, dog issues, which was mentioned at Tuesday night's

kind of think of it this way: It's the first inning, and the and where there are heavy congregations of dog the next Parks Commission meeting, on Sept. 5.

Ad campaign planned

The Parks and Recreation Department also in-Tuesday night's meeting will be used to get owners to tends to increase public awareness through media advertisements and by messages posted on the city's

McGrath told the board Tuesday night that he would say it's off the table," Commission Chairman intends to make sure that dispensers full of "mutt" budget to create new signs reminding dog owners to somewhere in the city, either in a park or on other

Garivaltis, who had called for the dog ban, said, "I Kirvin and Pontoosuc. McGrath said the city won't be meeting, is also a possibility. McGrath said that he

"We'll evaluate where we think we may need them bring the names of others who express an interest to

Garivaltis said residents interested in forming a committee have approached him, and that he is willing to meet with them in person. He had proposed the dog ban based on the number of droppings he had seen in the city's parks this summer. Most of the board's discussion on the issue took place after the commission failed to vote on his motion to institute a dog ban and after the majority of those in attendance had left.

Based on those discussions, he said he believes that

city-owned land. At the end of Tuesday night's meeting, Sheila

DOGS, continued on B4

Despite defeat of ban, debate on dogs continues

LaBarbera said that if the establishment of a dog park is the commission's goal, interim measures, such as dog areas in city parks, could be taken until solutions can

Something to ease into

it's something that we've got to bers of dog owners congregate. ease into."

Garivaltis said he had talked to 50 or 60 people before Tuesday night's meeting who supported his said that the number of nonrefrom the comments of those in were a lot of "gray opinions out attendance - "not a one showed there." up," he said.

the dog owners and 79 percent of or 'not sure,' " Ward said. "There the non-dog owners among the were a lot of in-between opinions 171 city residents who participated from people who e-mailed me." said they were against a total dog ban in the city's parks.

A total of 57 percent of the dog owners said they were against the designation of "dog park areas," Tony Dobrowolski can be reached but that measure was supported by at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com 56 percent of the non-dog owners. or at (413) 496-6224.

More than 90 percent of the members of both groups voted in favor of improving the enforcement of current city laws that require dog owners to pick up after their pets.

In Councilor Ward's two-day poll of Ward 4 residents, 10 respondents indicated that they were in favor of a total dog ban, "In the long run, we're going to while 24 said they were not. The have trouble in this city finding an other 140 Ward 4 residents who appropriate dog park because subscribe to Ward's Web site did everybody's going to go nuts," she not cast votes. Ward 4 includes said. "It's not something that we're Kirvin Park on Williams Street, going to do over the short term; one of the areas where large num-

Writing on his Web site, Ward idea of a dog ban, but — judging spondents led him to believe there

"I structured the question as a In Herman's poll, 82 percent of 'yes or no' answer, with no 'maybe'

Ward said he forwarded the results of his survey and a capsule summary of some of the com-

ments to McGrath.

The Pittsfield Gazette December 28, 2006



tion next year. Too much clutter? Parks
The Pittsfield Gazette commission chairman Charles Garivaltis worried that too many sculptures were being placed in the park, taking away from its natural and historic attributes. Then he saw the latest addition: a sculpture of four large stacks of boats that salutes Canadian fishermen while creating an

Park Square — the urban rotary that for many residents personifies Pitts-

Mock crime scene exhibit. Mayor James Ruberto and the parks com-

Funding delayed. Mayor James Ruberto's plans to eliminate the rotary

— and allow north-south traffic to proceed in a straight line — hit another

Those who served: Vietnam War memorial

Three pieces:

Elliott Katz's

"Mushroom

Grove" art





Tree art: Leslie Bryce's "Fungi"



History preserved: DAR sundial commemorating historic Elm Tree, restored by PHS students



Landlocked: "Nested" boat sculpture



Fountain: Park Square centerpiece

A partial inventory of what's in Park Square this week: Ten historic-style lamp posts 18 trees Ten benches Four trash cans

Civil War memorial statue Vietnam War memorial Sundial given by Daughters of American Elm tree and restored by PHS students in "Windows" vertical sculpture

"Fungi" tree sculpture
Monument to Mr. and Mrs. John Chandler Williams who donated land and saved Time capsule marker (to be opened in Utility boxes

Monument to Elkanah Watson, father of

"Nested" stacked boat sculpture "Tin Man" sculptures "Mushroom Grove" tree sculptures Yellow ribbons (apparently from troop salute last month)



Beautiful Shawls, Wraps, Sashes & Scarves

· Fashion Jewelry for Every Day & Special Occasions • Nickel-free Earrings

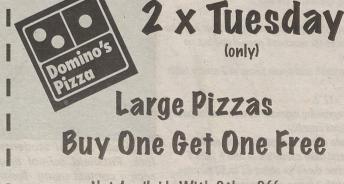
• Wonderful Pins > Magnetic Clasp Jewelry • Rhinestone Tiaras • Sterling Silver

• Inspirational Gifts

107 Elm St., Pittsfield 442-1589 Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-4 12/28 - 1/11 Sat. 10-2, Sunday Closed



93 First St., Pittsfield



Not Available With Other Offers

Elm Street 499-3994

Holiday ights up

PITTSFIELD — Despite temperatures in the teens, more than 50 people of all ages braved the cold just to get into the holiday spirit last night at the city's annual tree-lighting ceremony in Park Square. Small children rang jingle bells, while kids-at-heart donned Santa Claus hats.

And every single soul sported a smile. "Friends who stick together freeze together," said Theresa O'Keefe of the Pomeroy Avenue neighborhood.

She was part of a group of five festive friends who call themselves NWLEO -Neighbors Who Like Each Other. The group has attended the city's tree lightings and Halloween parades together for the

One of the neighbors, Tobey Levine, said that being with good friends is what the holiday spirit is all about. And it certainly seemed to be the theme of the evening. Nearby, a much shorter but just as spirit-

TREE, continued on A3 more than 50 people.



ed group of schoolgirls giggled and danced The annual Christmas tree lighting in Pittsfield's Park Square last night attracted







Santa Claus made an appearance to greet children immediately following the Christmas tree lighting in Pittsfield's Park Square.

Lighting draws big crowd

cups of hot chocolate.

"We're so excited," squealed The Grace Notes, an a cappella Bridget Daoust, who said that it was, "Santa! Santa! Santa!" who got her into the holiday spirit.

them into the spirit, while Claudia nated tree, a soft flurry of Grillon said it was presents and snowflakes fell

All four girls got their wishes around the square's empty foun- last night. Santa was escorted by a tain while carrying plastic foam fire truck. His pal Frosty the Snowman showed up, too.

group from Miss Hall's School, sang carols. And just minutes after members of the Hebert family lit roy said that music and snow got up the 20,000 lights on their do-

Pittsfield:

Rotary Club to open

playground Saturday There will be a ribbon-cutting and grand-opening ceremony for the Rotary Boundless Playground on Saturday at 10 a.m. The playground is located on Springside Avenue beside the North Little

League baseball field. The Rotary Club undertook the building of the playground to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in 2005. The playground has been designed so that children with disabilities can access a majority of the play areas.

The public has been invited to attend the ceremony where there will be a short presentation involving local dignitaries, representatives of the Rotary Club and National Center for Boundless Playgrounds and then the ribbon cutting. Light refreshments will be available along with face painting and other activities.

Information: Pam Knisley, Rotary Club of Pittsfield (413) 496-9956.

Boundless Playground celebrates opening

By Jessica Willis

PITTSFIELD — Until recently, 9-year-old Molly Murphy of Pittsfield had to drive a long distance if she wanted to go to the playground. Spinal muscular atrophy has confined her to a power chair, so traditional playgrounds were

Maneera Murphy would regularly take her daughter to the so-called "Boundless Playground" in Hartford, Conn., which was built for disabled children.

Pittsfield celebrated the opening of its own Boundless Playground on Springside Avenue yesterday, and now the Murphys' 90-minute commute is officially a thing of the past. The new playground, named "Rotary Park,"

is a gift to the city from the Rotary Club of Pittsfield and the result of four years of fundraising. More than \$381,000 was contributed by a host of local businesses, individuals and community organizations.

"We just kept seeing all these amazing [Boundless Playgrounds] all over the place, and we agreed that Pittsfield had to have one," said Kenneth Singer, executive director of Berkshire County Arc, one of the earliest advocates of the project. Boundless Playgrounds was created in 1997

by Amy Barzach in honor of her son Jonathan, who died of spinal muscular atrophy. There are 102 Boundless Playgrounds nationwide.

Built over the course of the summer by and ramps wide enough to accommodate by the Americans with Disabilities Act. power chairs. Special impact-resistant rubberized mats have been installed at the base of



Nicole Pasetta, 4, of South Glastonbury, Conn., plays on the new playground equipment yesterday during the grand opening of 'Rotary Park,' on Springside Avenue in Pittsfield.

The playgrounds are designed to be 70 per-Maxymillian Construction Co., Pittsfield's ver- cent accessible to children with disabilities, in sion features supportive, high-backed swings contrast to the 50 percent guideline mandated

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Commission drops dog ban

Droppings in city parks seen as problem

By Tony Dobrowolski

in a plan to ban dogs from city parks, the geous" for the city and made a motion ask-Parks Commission last night instead sug- ing the board to institute a dog ban. But gested forming a committee to address the that motion was met by boos and hisses problem of dog droppings.

Pittsfield City Hall for last night's meeting, other members: John P. Herman, Sheila which had to be moved from the LaBarbera, John C. Marchesi and Michael Springside House on North Street to City P. Filpi Council chambers to accommodate the large crowd.

After hearing comments by 23 of those in attendance, the Parks Commission declined to take action on a proposal to

ban dogs from Pittsfield's 29 parks. Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis, chal-PITTSFIELD — Finding little interest lenged the board to "do something courafrom the crowd, and gained no support More than 50 people packed into the from any of the commission's other four

> Clapping and cheering broke out when the motion failed.

Earlier this month

PARKS, continued on A3 Parks Commission meeting.



Brady, a nine-month old dog, plays at Kirvin Park in Pittsfield earlier this month. A proposal to ban dogs from all Pittsfield parks didn't get far in last night's

Boundless Playground established in Pittsfield

PLAYGROUND from B1

Monique Farias, the designer of the playground, believes that the best part of Boundless Playgrounds goes beyond the percentages. "Every child, regardless of disability, can get up to the highest point at this playground," she said. "We believe that play matters for every

Children's input

The needs of Berkshire County's children were of the utmost importance in the design process, and in October 2003, local parents and children were invited to the Berkshire Athenaeum for a "Dream and Design" party, where, using Legos, clay and other art supplies, the children created their fantasy playground.

"I wanted lots of ramps," said Molly, who took part in the brainstorming session. Second phase

Plans for phase two of the proj-

ect include a "Sensory Garden" geared toward the visually impaired, along with better parking and a screen that would separate the park from the neighboring baseball field.

But for now, Rotary Park's creators just want to enjoy the relief of a job well done.

"We really just want to take a breather for now," laughed project co-chairman and Rotary Club member Christine Singer. "It's

time to celebrate." "Let's applaud ourselves," said Mayor James M. Ruberto in a brief speech before the ribboncutting ceremony. "A community without services is not a community, and what you have shown is that this community has services for everyone.'

He gestured toward Molly and the other children in the crowd. "You provided us all with the inspiration to make a project this

big happen.' "I like everything the best," enthused Molly, when asked to name her favorite part of the new playground. "Now my wheels won't get caught up in any more piles of wood chips."

Jessica Willis can be reached at jwillis@berkshireeagle.com or at (413) 664-4995

Dog ban fails, but many remain upset with droppings found at Pittsfield parks

PARKS from A1

the board to consider the dog ban based on the number of droppings that he had seen in the city's parks this summer.

"It's primarily for health, safety and sanitary reasons," he said last night. He also said a report of an unleashed

seek such action. But met with stiff resistance last night, the chairman suggested that those in

would be happy to meet with you." Herman had made a similar offer earli- until an enforcement plan had been isn't anything I can do." er in the discussion, suggesting a commit-worked out.

Officer Joseph M. Chague, and members Control Officer for 18 years, said both he cated on public property. of the commission be formed to address and the Pittsfield Police Department City residents who spoke offered a vari-

"Let's get this resolved," Herman said. Park Commission approved. who owns two dogs, said she was against owner whose canine is caught defecating let them run unleashed. pit bull that attacked a 5-year-old boy in banning dogs from the city parks because on park property, private property or a Burbank Park on Aug. 2 prompted him to it was "too harsh."

"I don't think the situation is bad Marchesi said dog droppings in parks this particular problem that you are have ment, should be addressed first.

offenders are difficult to catch.

attendance form a committee, and then has been an issue during the 40 years that ing in the parks," Chague said. "Unless come back before the commission. "We he has worked for the city of Pittsfield. He you give me the license plate number and said he wouldn't support the measure address or name of the dog owner there park one day each month, so that violadog owners," Cole said. "To punish most

Chague said in the last year he has writ-

tee of city residents, Animal Control Chague, Pittsfield's full-time Animal ten only one citation for a dog that defe-

would enforce whatever measures the ety of solutions that included a designated ous youth sports leagues, suggested ban-Filpi said he was unwilling to vote last The city's current ordinance contains tain areas of parks, and more signs warn-city parks. night because the Parks Commission had fines ranging from \$25 for a first offense ing violators that they would be fined if "I think we should ban people before not drawn up an ordinance. LaBarbera, to \$300 for a fourth offense to any dog they did not clean up after their dogs or we ban dogs," said a Pittsfield woman,

Some said other problems in the city's board.

Abby Ketchum suggested having the of the few who don't. tors had no idea which area would be vis- of us for what a few bad dog owners do is

around?" she said. Jim Hassett, a longtime leader of varidog park, allowing dogs to use only cer- ning dogs only from the athletic fields in

who declined to provide her name to the

sidewalk, Chague said. But he said those parks, such as garbage, the dumping of Pete Cole of 74 New Hampshire Ave. construction waste, the presence of drug said a dog ban would mean the vast "One of the problems is enforcement of dealers, even the amount of human excre- majority of dog owners who follow the rules would have to suffer for the actions

animal control officer visit a different city "I think what we have here is a few bad

The vent

"Clapp Park is looking better! Why not finish the job with new basketball courts? The way grass is through the court's blacktop and rust is spreading on the back-

boards, maybe someone better check which way the poorly designed sprinkler system is sprayNo snow, no problem



Down they go

Meg Rock, 5, of Middlefield tumbles off a piece of cardboard used as a sled as she glides down a hill yesterday at Clapp Park in Pittsfield. The hill is a popular sledding spot in the winter, but even with the temperature reaching 76 degrees in Pittsfield, some youngsters weren't deterred.

Halloween Parade



Photos by Ben Garver / Berkshire Eagle Staff
Trevor Ciempa, left, and Travis Ciempa, both 10, prepare to frighten people last night during the Halloween Parade in Pittsfield.

Costumes, candy wow crowd

By Jack Dew Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The ghoul on stilts, with his death mask and grim reaper's hood, was almost too scary for some of the children.

But the candy he tossed from eight feet off the ground won them over, capturing their mouths and minds while they awaited the start of

the Halloween Parade.
The ghoul was joined by hundreds of witches, ninjas, goblins, spiders, pumpkins, princesses and Sponge-Bob SquarePants. The costumed crowd — estimated at 3,500 people by the Pittsfield Parks Department — began at Park Square and lined North Street to watch the floats and

show of their costumes.

One-year-old Hannah Carmel was dressed as Flounder from the Little Mermaid, and accompanied by her big sister, Emily, 4, dressed as the mermaid herself, Ariel.

do, and it's a nice night and it gets everybody outside," said Rebecca Carmel, the girls' mother. "It's a family thing."

April Hubbard was chasing her two-year-old son, Rider, dressed as a spider, around a large, pumpkin-shaped light sculpture in Park Square. "I wanted him to be something Halloween-ey, but they have no costumes for little people, but I finally found one that would fit," she said.

Abby Moon lead the school's 'Wizard of CroZby float, are great, there are tons of people, but I finally found one that would fit," she said.

"This is a great parade. It's really fun, I love all the floats, the bands orate "Wizard of CroZby" float, which had a spinning tornado, a wicked witch riding a broom stick through the air and a replica of street and made their way up North. Some blasted horns, others played spooky music and still others threw candy toward the rows of expectant children.

First prize and a \$150 award went

This is a great parade. It's really fun, I love all the floats, the bands orate "Wizard of CroZby" float, which had a spinning tornado, a wicked witch riding a broom stick through the air and a replica of sceond prize and \$100 was awarded a \$150 honorarium. All of the cash prizes were donated by the Greylock Federal Credit Union.

Second prize and \$100 was awarded to Capeless Elementary School for its "Field of Screams," a grave-yard-meets-baseball combination.

First prize and a \$150 award went

Abby Moon lead the school's "Wizard of CroZby" float, which had a spinning tornado, a wicked witch riding a broom stick through the air and a replica of sceond prize and \$100 was awarded to Capeless Elementary School for its "Field of Screams," a grave-yard-meets-baseball combination.

And Conte Elementary won third of CroZby" float, are great, there are tons of people, which had a spinning tornado, a wicked witch riding a broom stick through the air and a replica of sceond prize and \$100 was awarded to Capeless Elementary School for its "Field of Screams," a grave-yard-meets-baseball combination.

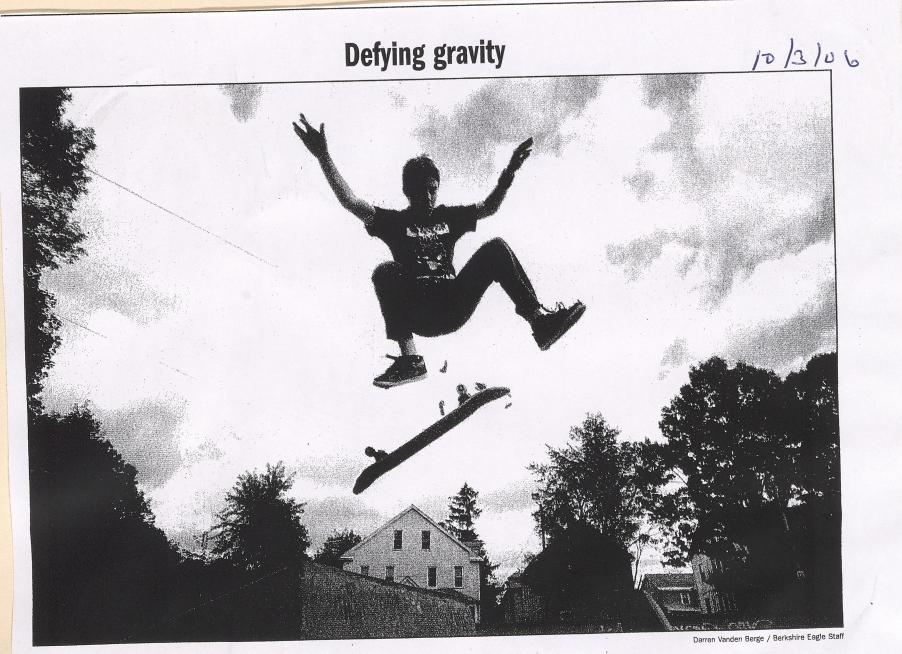
A



"It's something fun for the kids to do, and it's a nice night and it gets and Abby Moon lead the school's 'Wizard of CrOZby' float, which won first prize in last night's parade.

Massachusetts Turnpike

In Today's Fagle



Hang time Ryan Bailey, 13, performs a trick yesterday at the skateboard park in the Pittsfield Common. By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Dogs could be banned from athletic fields that are located within city parks and playgrounds, Parks Commissioner Sheila LaBarbera said this week. A new committee formed to address dog issues in Pittsfield's 29 parks and playground discussed the athletic field ban, and several other issues, when it met for the first time on Thursday. LaBarbera is the Parks Commission's liaison to the committee, which consists entire-

ly of city residents. There have been reports of soccer games interrupted by roaming dogs, she said.
"We're looking at banning dogs from fenced-in playing

> DOGS, continued on B4 10128/06

Committee considers strategic dog bans

fields," LaBarbera said. "I think people understand why people put their dogs in there — it's fenced in and safe. But it's not an approprito consider. ate place for dogs to be."

gested banning dogs from park dog ordinances more similar. athletic facilities in August, when the Parks Commission held a pub- now," LaBarbera said. lic hearing to discuss banning dogs

Under the current ordinances, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis Chague cannot issue fines to dog that he had observed in the city's security. The fine system also difparks this summer.

summer on Garivaltis' proposal Capt. Patrick F. Barry and Chague or at (413) 496-6224.

but suggested that a committee be attended the commission's initial formed to address those issues. The dog commission will not for- "They gave us good input," mulate policy; it will provide sug- LaBarbera said.

The dog commission also dis-Jim Hassett, a longtime leader cussed ways of making both the of youth sports leagues, had sug- city and the Parks Department's "They're very different right

gestions to the Parks Commission

had suggested a total dog ban owners spotted with unleashed based on the amount of droppings pets; that task falls only to park has been set. fers in both ordinances, she said.

The commission's short-term goals are to consider areas in the city's parks for unleashed dogs and to find ways of providing additional signage so that dogs owners know where certain activities are

The long-term goal is to find a completely from the city's parks. animal control officer Joseph site for a dog park, LaBarbera said. The dog commission will meet again in December, but no date

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached The board took no action last Police Chief Anthony J. Riello, at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com

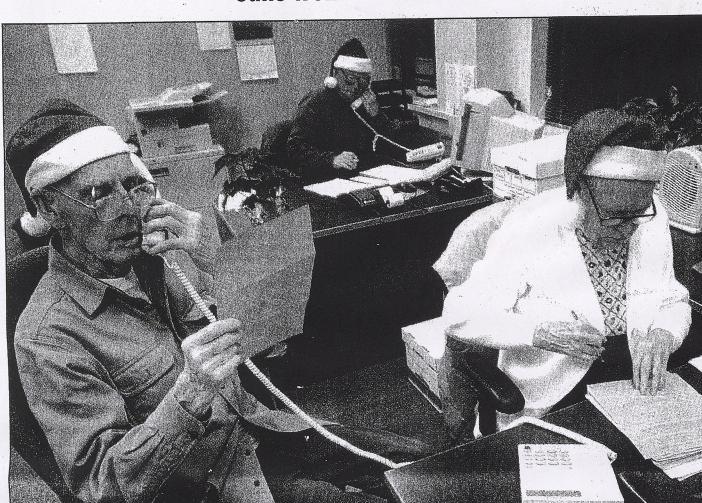
> The vent "Are the boats that are in Park Square in Pittsfield for the citizens of Pittsfield who live in Wards 3 and 4, who suffered from the terrible flooding in October 2005? Is this ever going to be resolved? How much longer do these people have to suffer from that terrible event? The officials of the City of Pittsfield should be ashamed of themselves. These families need help in paying debts to rebuild their homes and reinvest in Pittsfield - a

place that they all love. Where's the

J 6 / D &B., Pittsfield

help? Where's the humanity and decent respect for those who lost everything? Maybe even losing hope

Calls from the Clauses



Above, Louis Graham, left; his wife, Barb Graham, right; and Jim Hassett phone local children as part of the North Pole Calling Program at Berkshire Bank on McKay Street in Pittsfield. Below, Paul DiVirgilio places some calls.



Checking up

Local volunteers give Santa a hand

up, and some can't stop talking." That's what happens when volunteers — posing as Santa or Mrs. Claus
— call local schoolchildren to talk

McGrath said the volunteers love — call local schoolchildren to talk about their wish lists and whether they've been naughty or nice.

"Every phone call is different," said James McGrath, director of the Com- a volunteer spent several minutes munity Services/Parks and Recreation Department, the sponsor of the annual North Pole Calling Program. During the two-day event, which was held yesterday and Wednesday, 18 volunteers called roughly 275 children from Grades kindergarten through 2. The program has been running for at least

PITTSFIELD — "Some clam right" 25 years, McGrath said, and many of the volunteers have worked the phones each year. Members of the local Elks and

sharing stories of the sometimes-hilarious phone conversations with the children. He said just the other night telling a boy that it would be hard for Santa to transport a pony — the top gift on his list - in his sleigh.

"It's a wonderful holiday tradition," he added. "We get to learn about the newest newfangled toys on the market, things we've never heard of." - Benning W. De La Mater

The Berkshires

Jim McGrath help yesterday to assemble the sculpture, which consists of 32 galvanized steel forms representing traditional fishing boats. 'Nested' is one of two major installations to begin the seventh season of Artscape, Pittsfield's annual outdoor

sculpture exhibition.





Balancing act

Slow and steady

Ciera Schwartzer, 4, plays recently on the new playground equipment at Rotary Park in Pittsfield.

Pittsfield 'A complete managerial disaster'

Commission recommends 'co-manager' for Parks Department project in the city's parks has been postponed, and that the Park Compostponed, and that the Park Compostponed postponed postponed

James M. Ruberto asking him to has been delayed until spring.

The board voted unanimously look into the possibility.

McGrath administer recreational Garivaltis said the board decided to mission believed McGrath could use Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Park Commission believes that Community

Berkshire Eagle Staff

activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities in the city's parks, Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said on

The board activities mission believes that Community

Tuesday. The board voted 5-0 in ketball courts at four city parks,

as a "co-manager" of the Parks De-Services Director James McGrath needs some help.

The board voted 5-0 in ketoali courts at four city parks, favor of forwarding a letter to Mayor James M. Ruberto asking him to has been delayed until spring.

Ketoali courts at four city parks, scheduled to already be under way, has been delayed until spring.

Monday night to see if the city will

The matter was not on the agenda managerial disaster," Garivaltis said. "This is, in my opinion, a complete valtis said. hire an additional employee to help for Monday night's meeting. But He said this isn't the first time a

PARKS, continued on B5

'Co-manager' sought for Parks Department

PARKS from B1

broadened this year due to last the board's decision. The position all person in the office would cer-

'Can't handle all this'

this," Garivaltis said. aware of the commission's actions, department is a challenge."

sions with the board chairman," "It's difficult to do those jobs at

year's consolidation of the city and of recreation director within the tainly be a benefit." school grounds maintenance de-Parks Department has been vaschool grounds maintenance uppartments, which put 13 additional fields under the Parks Department as open vacant since current board member John Marchese retired several

Setting priorities

The resurfacing of the basket-ball courts at Clapp, Deming and

Ruberto said that he was unhaving to manage the rest of the precedence, McGrath said.

Community Services and Parks that," he said. "This sounds like an operational and Recreation Director, Mc- Tony Dobrowolski can be reached dressed through private discus- for managing the city's lakes.

McGrath's responsibilities were McGrath said he agreed with "Having an additional profession-

ball courts at Clapp, Deming and "I think I've done a good job of Marchisio parks, and at the First "One person can't handle all it," McGrath said, referring to taking on the recreation duties, "but because of other issues that took

"There was a high work load, and wanted to speak with GariBesides his duties as Director of and the project took a back seat to

decision that can best be ad- Grath said he is also responsible at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle .com or at (413) 496-6224.



A shadowy figure Dylan Thompson, 5, swings in Pittsfield's Clapp Park late yesterday afterno

Dog ban options weighed

Passionate canine advocates prompt committee formation

By Benning W. De La Mater

romp and do other doggy things.

The Parks Commission last night discussed a number of alternatives to banning dogs in Pittsfield's 29 parks, a pro-

committee will be formed to handle open areas in the city as dog parks. PITTSFIELD — Dogs may soon have dogs running free, defecating dogs and parks in the city, especially athletic Tough to ticket a place of their own in the city to run, dog owners who fail to show responsibil-fields, off limits to dogs.

Six committee volunteers

ity for their animals.

posal that was shot down in August when the committee, and Community Services their leashes. If there's no enforcement, more than 50 passionate dog people at- Director James McGrath said he will be what's going to stop them?" tended a meeting as a show of force gathering the volunteers in the coming Animal Control Officer Joseph perhaps even plainclothes detectives weeks. Garivaltis said one of the first Chague and Police Chief Anthony Riello Chairman Charles P. Garivaltis said in things the committee should discuss is were in attendance last night, and both the wake of last night's meeting that a the prospect of designating one or two confirmed that enforcing dog laws is dif-

"I am concerned about the people who don't clean up after their dogs," said commission member Sheila LaBarbera, "but Six residents have volunteered to sit on my bigger concern is the dogs who are off

said, owners who have their dogs off leashes spot his truck and immediately hook their dogs to avoid being ticketed.

Giving tickets to owners who don't clean up after their dogs also is tough;

Chague has witnessed only one owner in 21 months violate the ordinance. Riello said he would be willing to have a small portion of the police force —

DOGS, continued on B3

Dog ban options discussed

DOGS from B1

"We'll need help getting focused," Riello said. "We need eyes and ears to help us target specific areas."

Garivaltis proposed giving Mc-Grath and his seven full-time park ets, a notion that was met with eagle.com or at (413) 496-6243. tepid response.

"These are the people who spend all their time in the parks," said Garivaltis, who added that park employees in other parts of Massachusetts and New York have the ability to write tickets. McGrath said he was uncom-

fortable with making his laborers deal with enforcement issues.

Commission member Michael P. Filpi said, "I don't want to involve Parks Department personnel in writing tickets."

Benning W. De La Mater can be employees the ability to write tick- reached at bdelamater@berkshire



Latino festival

Miguel Gomez of La Fogata restaurant prepares beef skewers during this past Saturday's Family Fiesta, a community celebration at the First Street Common. In addition to food tables, the event included dance performances and information booths manned by representatives of social agencies as well as a telecommunications company looking to hire employees. This is the second year that the festival has been sponsored under the auspices of the city's cultural development office.

The Pittsfield Gazette August 10, 2006

Parks commissioners consider Bossidy Bucks proposals

The Pittsfield Gazette September 21, 2006

obviously needed."

field will complement an existing proposal to Monday's meeting and start Deming," he said. diamond used by the minor league advocated that funds be released. The pointed to a lengthy discussion program, helping not just that league Garivaltis said he has struggled of the Deming plan which has been on should adhere to his wishes strictly,"

it's just grass... This will be one more boring Dalton. for Little League practice."

consensus.

Herman.

approximately six feet high and pro-stated that only 25 percent of any one vides protection from "errant balls." year's allocation should be spent on He said "this is real peace of mind, playground equipment.

Marchisio Park near Dalton Division was clearly stated by the donor," he Road, however, led to detailed review said.

Commissioner John Herman McGrath said that city councilor could meet the 25 percent require- we're on a good swing here."

with this proposed expenditure, and off the agenda due to a range of said the chairman. "They'll get two fields for minor in part because Marchisio is not a concerns about impacts on neighbors Garivaltis noted that initial allocacity officials to transfer the Bossidy

needed field and clear up another "If we have a limited amount of what's been proposed. school [now used for minor league] money, my thinking was to put [the McGrath pushed for the Marchisio On the other hand, Garivaltis noted getting scarce," he said.

has "sort of withdrawn my opposi- maintained, "we're moving things set up as something Bossidy "has mission's October 2 meeting. "It sounds like a no-brainer," said tion because it's still kids."

Commissioner Mike Filpi pointed McGrath said that the fencing is outthatinaletterBossidy specifically

Filpi noted that the letter came Aproposed expenditure of \$25,000 after a controversy erupted over to \$30,000 for a play structure at initial spending of the funds. "This

of the intent of the Bossidy Bucks. Filpi said that the commission forward, we're on the up and up here, been thrilled with."

agreed that "it's something that's Linda Tyer has been asking about the ment by proceeding with a stalled But Garivaltis said that it wouldn't Bossidy to see if the 25 percent play structure, included in a plansev- \$100,000 field upgrade at Deming be appropriate to go "swishy wishy" threshold should still be strictly ap-McGrath said that the restored eral years ago. He brought a design Park. "We cannot do this until we if the expenditure would violate plied. After that discussion, the com-"I would say right now that we allocation.

league in one location," he said. "That heavily used park and primarily and the environment. Commission-tions—prior to the tenure of current funds to a new account, thereby field in the back is not really used serves children from more affluent ers have also debated the value of commissioners — included "trucks, doubling the interest rate. now because there are no base paths, neighborhoods as well as from neigh- proposed field upgrades and whether tires and plows" that violated the Filpi cautioned that the Bossidy the layout of the park is suitable for intent of the gift. "It made us look Bucks aren't a limitless fund. "The

very bad," he said. structures] in the inner city where it's funds, saying "this is a project that that Bossidy has expressed satisfac- McGrath indicated that he would The plan to add "player protection inner-city Pittsfield kids," he said. has been on our list." He said that tion with the play structures that have plan for a more detailed discussion fencing" at five sites also generated Garivaltis said, however, that he the spirit of the donation is being been funded. He cited the Clapp Park of the Deming situation at the com-

The chairman also noted that the current commission recently pushed

drops coming out of the spickets are

Parks commission reschedules discussion of possible dog ban

Pittsfield's canine controversy took meetings are held at the same time, But the chairman also is concerned an unscheduled breather this week. always, and I'm not happy that this about the safety of children in the face A scheduled Monday parks com- happened right now." mission meeting had to be canceled at Garivaltis said that he has been in-

would seek a citywide ban on dogs all city parks.

n parks — rescheduled the session "It seems as if this discussion is just child was treated for scratches, cuts City Hall.

appened," said Garivaltis. "The clean up after them.

the last minute due to an inadvertent undated by comments, pro and con, He said that he just had a report failure to post a meeting notice. since he began his dog ban quest. of an August 2 incident at Burbank Commission chairman Charles The chairman initially broached Park in which a five-year-old boy Garivaltis — who caused waves by the topic of banning dogs at Bur- was "attacked by an unleashed dog announcing that at the meeting he bank Park, but expanded his call for and hurt enough to be taken to the

or Tuesday, August 15 at 7 p.m. at expanding tremendously," he said. and minor bites. "I've very disappointed that we've and sanitary concerns in his discus- to support his call for a citywide ban lad to reschedule this as a result of a sion, particularly citing owners who on dogs in parks. If that fails to garner

Burbank incident

pediatrician." Garivaltis said that the

Garivaltis has emphasized health Garivaltis will ask the commission echnicality that never should have letdogs roam loose at parks and don't a majority of votes, he will seek bans for Burbank Park and Kirvin Park.



PITTSFIELD PARKS DEPARTMENT

ISSUE 777 SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

Commission eyes Bossidy Bucks projects

Youth baseball field, protective fencing and possible play structure targeted

Parks commissioners may soon loosen the pursestrings on the Bossidy Bucks. The one million dollar donation Larry Bossidy made to the

city for playing fields after the civic authority initiative has been a frequent source of controversy.

The donation has dwindled to \$326,000 through the controversial purchase of vehicles and equipment for the parks department; disputed upgrades to several fields; and installation of two play structures.

The commission this week authorized two additional expenditures while debating the suitability of a third allocation. The board on Monday voted unanimously in favor of creation of a sec-

ond minor league youth baseball field at Wahconah Park, the field near the city stadium. The commission also voted unanimously to purchase fencing for five

The minor league field is expected to cost approximately \$3,000 while the fencing is expected to cost some \$5,000. Community services director James McGrath said that creating an ad-

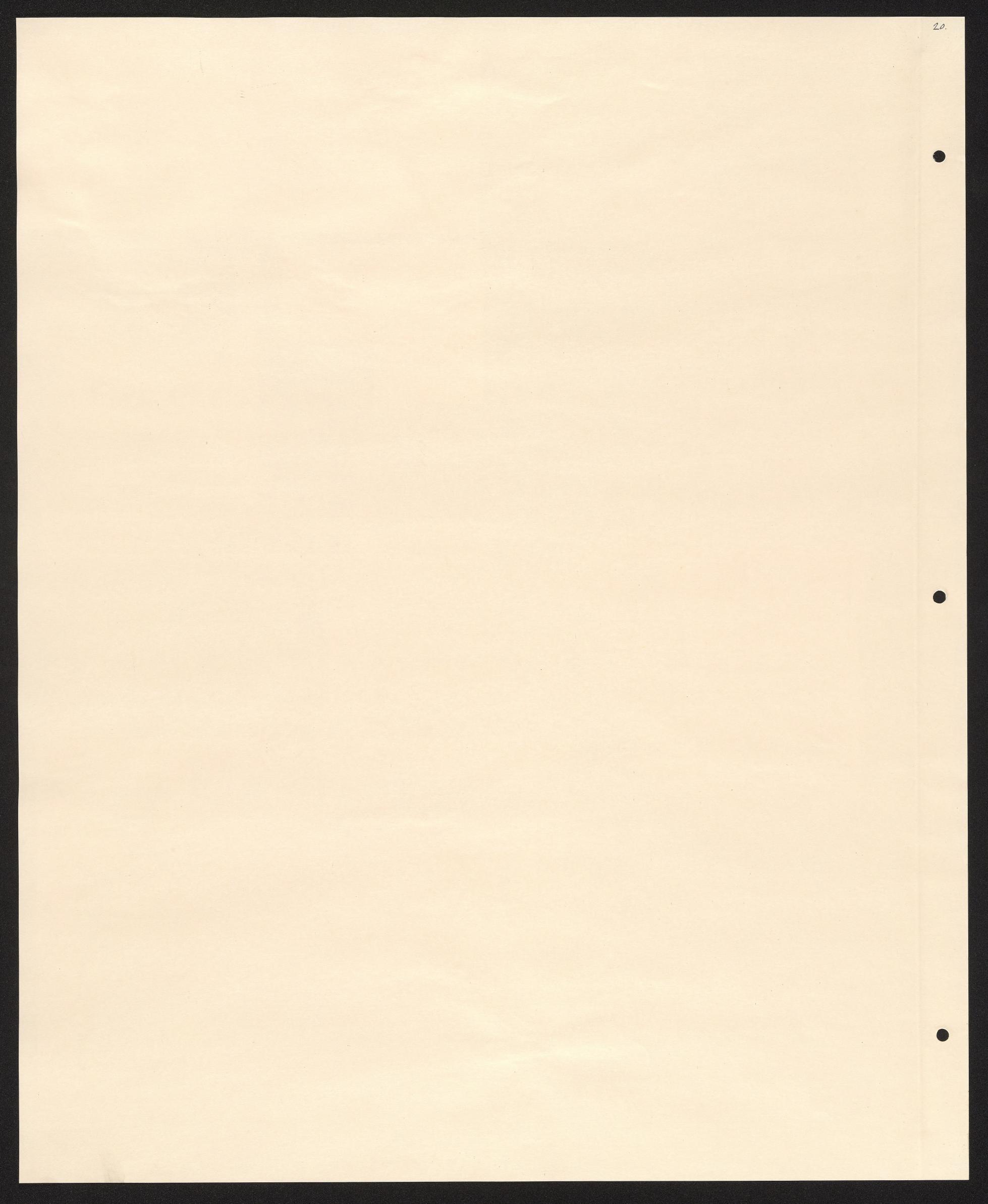
ditional barebones field at Wahconah Park off Park Street will boost the youth baseball program. "This is a little field in the back that was once a skinned minor league

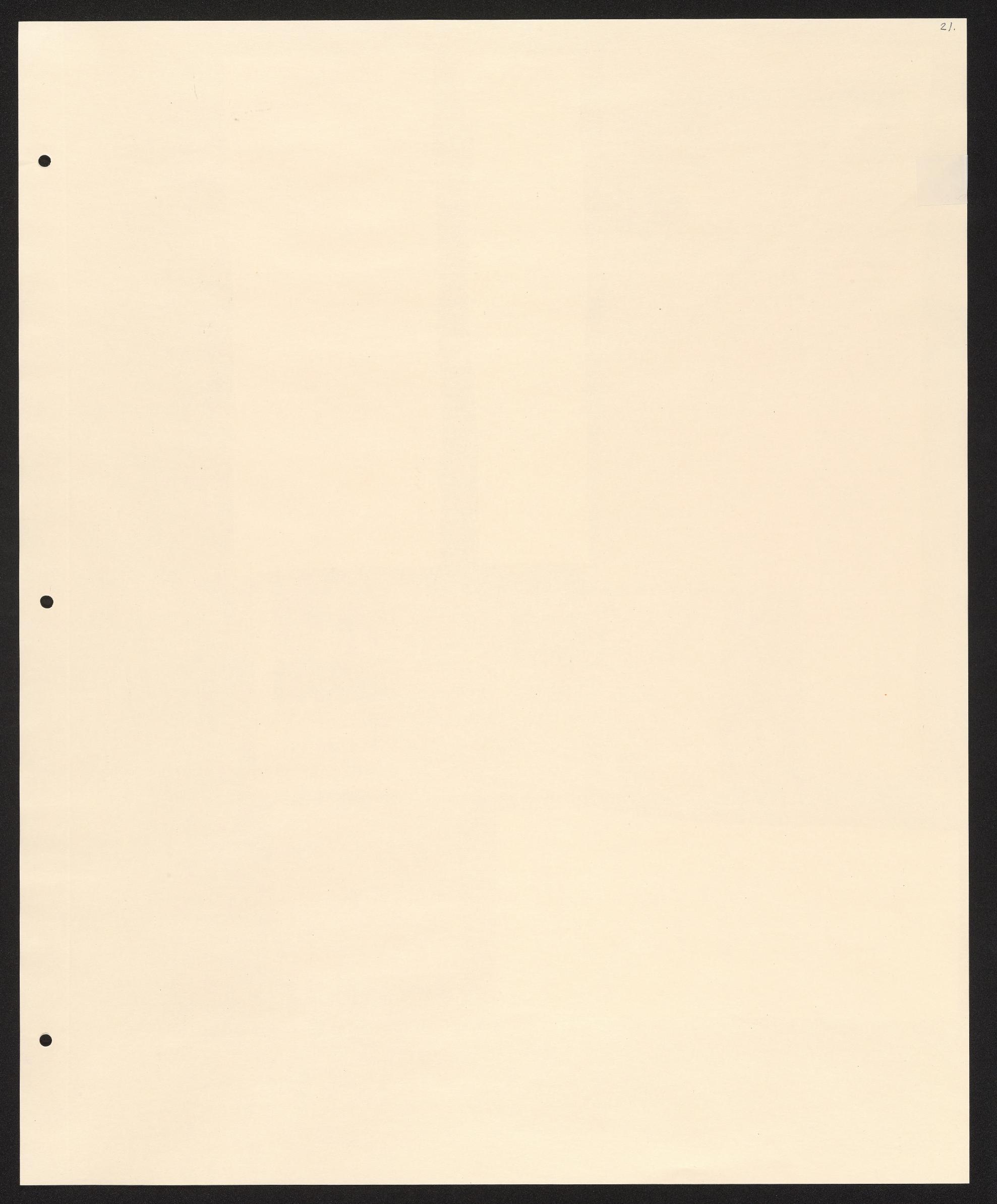
field, but it's all grown in," he said. "It's an all right field." Commission chairman Charles Garivaltis, who has been skeptical of

several allocations, said this one matches Bossidy's intent. "It's a terrific idea," he said. "These are playing fields... it fits to a tee."



This Clapp Park play structure is one of the better-received projects funded with a donation from Larry Bossidy. Parks commissioners are now trying to determine if they should designate money for See PARKS page 9 similar projects or concentrate on playing fields





Bouton pitches new chapters

Jim Bouton has come out swingi

once again. The former professional baseball player has added more than 100 pages

to his book, "Foul Ball."

The revised "Foul Ball Plus Part II" updates Bouton's version of the events involving his efforts, with partner Chip Elitzer, to bring a minor league baseball team to Wah-

Thenew section of the book-scheduled for formal release by Lyons Press of Connecticut next month — begins with a January 2004 invitation for the duo to try again.

The addendum continues through the excitement of the new invitation, the duo's foray with a nationally telecast vintage baseball game and the breakdown of the deal.

In the new pages, Bouton targets old enemies — The Berkshire Eagle, Cain Hibbard Myers & Cook, Gerald Dovle, Ir. — while expanding his universe into a new set of perceived roadblocks.

Bouton last week began a series of public readings at which he is selling advance copies of the \$17.95 paperback book. He's already appeared at the Bookstore in Lenox and the Barnes & Noble store on Hubbard Avenue. He was scheduled to appear at the Berkshire Athenaeum on Thursday

Herewith a selection of quotes from the new chapters.

"The letter on the preceding page was not a joke. At least not right

"The next morning, Chip and I headed for Pittsfield, which now seemed like a different place."

On the day after the parks commis-Bouton and Elitzer to field a team at into Lon Chaney, Jr." Waliconali Park.

"But Chip and I had no experience Dave Potts. promoting events: we had no staff, were up to our ears in meetings with to sign the license, he maintained a a revised agreement. we were trying to raise money, we architects and engineers... Naturally, public posture of supporting us." we decided to do it."

baseball game on July 4.

us. But it didn't matter. We shrugged waste transfer station (read dump) For a very simple reason: the people it off, just as we had shrugged off the in a residential neighborhood? Or was running the city aren't running for reluctance of Downtown Inc. and the he there to help facilitate a proposed office." Chamber of Commerce. What did we strip joint in a residential neighborneed them for? After all, we'd been welcomed by the city. We had a signed licensed agreement. We had the mayor behind us. We had the Parks Commission. The City Council. The citizens of Pittsfield."

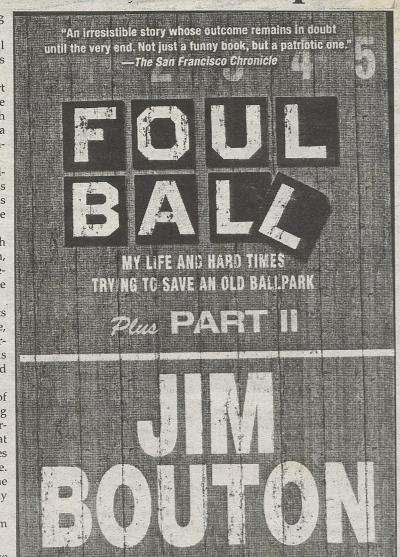
On the political action committee WHEN withdrawing a member's invitation for the duo to speak at a meeting.

"How much happiness could I stand?"

On the thrill of taking the mound during the nationally televised vintage

"Speranzo - thirty-two, friendly and smart - would be a unanimous choice for Mr. Congeniality at a Pillsbury Doughboy look-alike contest."

On former city solicitor (and now state representative) Chris Speranzo.



"If this were a movie, the story hood?" On the January 2004 invitation from would end right there. Fade to On seeing nemesis Gerald Doyle, Jr. Mayor James Ruberto and other city black over exploding fireworks and behind City Hall. officials to bring minor league baseball triumphal music. But it was not a "The amazing thing was that no movie. And this is not Hollywood. one — not the commissioners nor

> lasted the weekend." After the vintage game.

sion endorsed a license agreement for likened to Jimmy Stewart, had turned disbelief or calls of outrage. It was On a strained relationship with one- undermined. This was Pittsfield, timeally and anti-civic authority activist after all."

"Even though Ruberto refused

On hurried plans to stage a vintage wardarevised license proposal, prompted usually pays on election day. And by a union protest.

"Was Doyle still lobbying for a

It's Pittsfield. Where heaven barely Speranzo nor the audience — responded to Ms. Persip's astounding charge that Chip and I were being "That Potsy, who Chip and I once sabotaged. There was no scoffing in simply assumed that we were being

> On the parks commission's decision not to consider asking the mayor to sign

"When something like this hap-On Mayor James Ruberto's attitude to- pens in a democracy, somebody there is a big turnover of politicians in Pittsfield, but nothing ever changes.

On Pittsfield's backroom politics.

Another summer concert brewing

August show likely at Wahconah Park

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — There could be another concert on the scale of last June's Bob Dylan/Willie Nelson show coming to Wahconah Park this summer.

The Parks Commission has granted a request by the Dylan/Nelson show promoter, Gene Fein of Berkshire Music Glen Productions, to use Wahconah Park between Aug. 25 and 27.

But unlike last year, another meeting between Fein and city officials, including Mayor James M. Ruberto, must take place before those dates are officially approved.

"There's one additional step," Parks Commissioner Charles P. Gari-

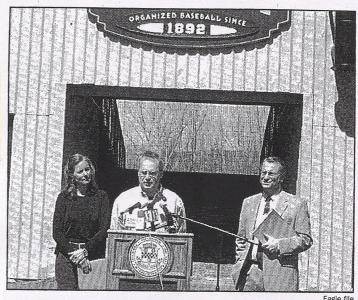
The commission now requires a second meeting for those seeking to use Wahconah Park. Last year, the commission gave Fein permission to use the park for a concert, believing that, if he needed a license agreement, the document would be drawn up by the mayor's office, which handled the negotiations

Former board chairman Gene Nadeau told The Eagle last year that he was reluctant to insist that Fein be required to obtain a license to use the park because there was no fee structure for the facility.

Some board members were angry at last year's sequence of events, especially after it became known that the city received nothing in financial compensation from the sold-out show.

"It's the result of last year's complaint that the city didn't make any money," Garivaltis said, explaining why a second meeting is now required. "As a result of that, the commission decided that additional requests for Wahconah Park events

CONCERT, continued on A4



Promoters Lisa Willey-Fein, left, Gene Fein, center, and Pittsfield Mayor James M. Ruberto announced the Bob Dylan-Willie Nelson concert last summer. An announcement for a concert in August could be made in the coming months.

Concert faces a few hurdles

be handled with a meeting be- see it as a done deal. tween the mayor, James McGrath [the city's director of community place, all the planning needs to services], and either the chairman occur. All the stuff is doable, but of the Parks Commission or his or we're not completely locked in." her designee.

about who it is going to be and it will probably be on only one of how the city is going to be com- the three August dates that he pensated," Garivaltis added.

Although the city made no direct money on last year's Dylan/Nelson show, all 7,500 tickets were sold, and an estimated 10,000 people filled the 3,100-seat Wahconah Park. Owners of businesses near Wahconah Park said that the concert provided them with an economic boost. Fein paid the city \$6,000 to use the park.

City officials tried but failed to bring the Dylan/Nelson tour to Pittsfield in 2004, and Ruberto said that last year's show was intended more to promote the city than to make a profit.

Garivaltis, who will be chairman of the Parks Commission when Eleanor Persip's term expires May 1, said the date of the second meeting hasn't been set yet. In a telephone interview, Fein said that he expects the second meeting to occur within the next couple of weeks.

If another show does come to Wahconah Park, those plans probably will be finalized after the sec-people as last year," he said. ond meeting, Fein said.

there are still a lot of details to be worked out with the city. I don't

"Another meeting has to take

Fein said that if he does bring "There will be some discussion another show to Wahconah Park, requested

> He said he was in favor of meeting a second time with city officials. "I think anything that increases the communication with all the parties in the city is a good idea," he said. "I think last year our event produced more commerce in the city in a single day than anything has in a long time. I think people are cognizant of that."

> According to Garivaltis, Fein told the Parks Commission that the artists he could bring to Pittsfield this summer "will be comparable to last year's reputation and talent" but that "I'm not at liberty to give you any names."

> In his telephone interview, Fein said the concert would feature "family acceptable rock 'n' roll," but declined to name the artists or whether they could be identified with the 1960s, the era when Dylan became famous.

"I would say that it's a bill that will attract just as many or more

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached "It will be a show similar to last at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com year if we do it," he said. "[But] or at (413) 496-6224.

Thursday, April 13, 2006

Dukes add another Duquette to staff

Nephew of Dan named director of operations

By Chris Carlson

themselves a family attraction. footsteps and get into player per- ter.

on Monday, April 6, to become thought it would happen this sors. Now, he'll have to take care

the vice president and general soon." of the new, the old, the ticket manager of the New York-Penn Dave Duquette's primary holders and the promotions. He

UMass graduate with a bachelor's of former Harvard assistant and "It's what I was doing [under degree in sport management, said current New York Yankees scout Murphy] times 10," Duquette The Pittsfield Dukes consider degree in sport management, and he hopes to follow his uncle's Matt Hyde to help fill out the rossaid

Murphy as the team's director of great, great professional starting assistant, expecting to guide the mer of 2003 and interned with the operations. Murphy left the team point. It's a great job. I never Dukes' effort to find new spon-

League's Tri-City ValleyCats. The responsibilities with the Dukes said he's looking forward to havhiring leaves one high-profile will be selling season-tickets and ing a number of fireworks shows position open for the Dukes, who group tickets and organizing pro- at Wahconah Park and is also are still looking to hire a manager. motions and sponsorships. The excited about the team's June 25 Dave Duquette, 23, a 2005 team has been relying on the help game against Team USA.

This year, the organization will be sonnel someday, but is thrilled to Despite his new position with takes a broad skill set, one that receive the chance he'll get this the ValleyCats, Murphy will also Dan Duquette said his nephew The Dukes announced yester- season in the New England work with the Dukes as a team possesses despite his relative newday that Dave Duquette Jr., the Collegiate Baseball League. consultant, offering advice and ness to the field. nephew of owner and former Red "To go from being out of college" sharing his marketing experience He directed the grounds crew at Sox general manager Dan to being put in this position is with Dave Duquette. Duquette the Dan Duquette Sports Acade-Duquette, will replace Richard great," Duquette said. "It's a entered the spring as Murphy's my in Hinsdale during the sum-

Being the director of operations



Monday, May 29, 2006

Hometown nine wins tourney



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff Members of the Pittsfield Elms watch the game from the dugout vesterday during the Vintage Base Ball Tournament.

The Elms won the tournament

By Derek Gentile Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The leadoff batter for the Hartford Senators stepped to the plate at Wahconah Park yesterday.

"High zone, sir," he said to umpire James Farry. Farry, who was positioned about 15 feet and to the right of Pittsfield Elms catcher Jeff "Backhoe" Reynolds, nodded and called out to Pittsfield Elms thrower Terry "Lefty" Bishop, "Batter has requested high zone.'

Bishop nodded, wound up and sent the baseball spinning toward home plate.

The ball came in by about the batter's belt buckle. Too low. Ball one, intoned Farry.

Bishop's pitch would have been a strike in most by pitcher B.J. Jefferson. The finale saw Pittsfield leagues. But the batter had requested high pitches, and Bishop's pitch was too low for the high zone, if you understand the situation.

Welcome to the world of vintage base ball. The Elms, with Bishop winning two games, went undefeated in the inaugural Pittsfield Elms Vintage

Base Ball Tournament held at Wahconah and Clapp parks this weekend. Vintage base ball (the term was two words until the early 20th century) is baseball played by 19th-century rules. Some teams play by the rules of 1861, which

allowed no gloves and underhand pitching. Other teams, including the eight teams that played yesterday, play by the rules of 1876, which allow thin, golflike gloves for fielders and overhand pitching.

The Elms dominated the competition, beating the Westfield Wheelmen 13-1 behind a no-hitter by Bishop. In the semifinals, Pittsfield defeated the Simsbury Taverners 19-7 behind a fine performance

TOURNAMENT, continued on B2

Dave Duquette joins Dukes

DUKES from C1

marketing department for the there as general manager. New England Patriots last sum- "I remember going to Olympic mer. He also played baseball and Stadium and going under the field

how to manage an organization 'Wow, I'd love to do this.' I've gotfrom the ground up," Dan ten some perks by knowing [Dan], Duquette said. "He has facility that's for sure. experience, field maintenance "It's family," he said. "Why experience, sales experience and wouldn't you want to work with marketing experience. He's from them?" the area, so he knows the market -

Dave Duquette said his desire to ccarlson@berkshireeagle.com, or l enter sports management stems calling (413) 496-6251. from a childhood surrounded by it. He fondly remembers visits to

spring training and games in Montreal when his uncle worked

7 p.m.

Wahconah Park

football at Wahconah Regional. and seeing Gary Sheffield taking "He has the necessary experi- batting practice," Duquette said. ence and he's very anxious to learn "That was pretty cool, it was like,

Chris Carlson can be reached a

The Pittsfield Gazette March 2, 2006

Dukes pitch 2-year park deal

By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The city Parks Comto continue to play at Wahconah Park for the Parks Commisthe next two years.

But while team owner David Duquette ratify the license on said he considers the signing of a new Feb. 14. The Parks two-year agreement a "formality," some Commission manages commissioners want to first be sure the Wahconah Park on city is not taking a financial risk.

The team played at the 3,100-seat ballpark last season under a one-season agree- with Mayor James M. ment after playing in Hinsdale the previ- Ruberto last Septous year. The previous one-year agree- ember, Duquette statment between the city and the team, ed publicly that if the which had no renewal clause, expired last Dukes couldn't get a August at the end of the New England new license agreement Collegiate Baseball League's season. Discussions regarding the crafting of looking to move the team elsewhere.

Promoter

denies

rumors

Steely Dan not set

to play Wahconah

By Tony Dobrowolski

PITTSFIELD — The local promoter of

last year's Bob Dylan/Willie Nelson con-

cert at Wahconah Park said yesterday that

a report claiming he will bring the rock

group Steely Dan to Pittsfield this sum-

mer is false and based on "erroneous

"We have respect for those artists,"

Gene Fein of Berkshire Music Glen

Productions said, referring to Steely Dan

and solo artist Michael McDonald, who

are touring together this summer. "But

they have not, nor have they ever been, on

Seth Rogovoy, Berkshire Living Maga-

zine's editor-in-chief and formerly The

Eagle's pop music critic, wrote on his Web

journal Saturday that the Steely Dan/

Michael McDonald tour would come to

"I guess I was misinformed," Rogovoy

On Saturday, Rogovoy said he was "pret-

ty confident" the Steely Dan/ Michael

McDonald tour was stopping at Wahconah

Park, but declined to say how he had

obtained the information. Fein failed to

Wahconah Park on Friday, Aug. 25.

"It is erroneous information."

information.

our planning board.

'I was misinformed'

said yesterday.

City officials to review last year's books

mission will consider a proposal tomor- that agreement were acrimonious, and ap- "We thought that it was important to meeting to discuss implementing a set of row that would allow the Pittsfield Dukes proval was delayed several times, until get something in place right when the rules and regulations regarding the use of sion finally voted to **Contract details** deal with it, you'll

■ Annual park-use fee: \$10,000.

After initial talks

lined up during the fall, he would begin anor Persip said she isn't sure the commission will approve the proposal at to-

Additional fees:

2005: \$300 per game.

*2006: \$315 per game.

*2007: \$330 per game.

Persip said the Parks Commission originally planned to use tomorrow night's season was done," he the park, which is listed on the National said Friday. "But the Register of Historic Places. The board city told us they'd has been debating this issue since last

> "All of a sudden a new Dukes' license agreement was put on" the agenda, Persip said. "I can't tell you if we'll reach any kind of decision or not."

"I don't know why they wouldn't," conah Park based on Duquette said. "Like I said, I'm not aware of any issues. What we pay to the city covers our costs for the use of the facility. It's Pittsfield," he added. the highest amount that anybody pays in Chairwoman Ele- our league.

DUKES, continued on B7

Dukes put forth a new park use proposal

come back and play

ball, and we'll work

play ball at Wah-

the conversations we've

had with the city of

"We're planning to

out the details.

"We're paying the city more this license until February. versations with Pittsfield have all currently planning a number of ing the contest if the Dukes' license

been positive." Persip said the board has asked including American Legion tourna- year. James McGrath, the city's director ments, a clinic hosted by his Hins- "With us not having a multi-year the city lost money last year when field's youth leagues, and a possikinds of things," Duquette said.

it rented the park to the Dukes. "My concern with this is: Did we which includes the country's best operate at a loss to accommodate him?" Persip said, referring to Duquette. "I think that all of the commissioners want to know." One of the major hang-ups last winter was the length of the original license. Duquette wanted a threeyear deal, while the Parks Commission favored a one-year agree-

ment. Questions regarding the city's

ability to pay the escalating costs

for maintenance and utilities in

Wahconah Park led some board members to question the approval of a three-year license. The new license proposal, which the board's five members have received through the mail, is basically the same as last year's, except for the length and small increases

in the per-game fees. The new proposal also contains a clearly defined termination clause, something that was not included in the previous license. Board members had questioned the lack of such a clause last winter.

The Dukes, who have asked to use Wahconah Park at least 25 times for games, have also requested an additional 12 dates to use Wahconah Park in each of the next two years, which is the same amount of extra days they were

Persip said the board has concerns about that clause, because the Dukes did not use all of those 12 extra dates during their initial season at Wahconah Park. Duquette said the Dukes were unable

additional events this summer, agreement is for more than one ble appearence by Team USA, collegiate baseball players.

Duquette said in October that he would like to put in a bid to have the NECBL's 2006 All-Star game played at Wahconah Park this

to fill them all because the board summer. On Friday, Duquette said didn't approve last summer's the site of the All-Star game is still up for grabs, and that Pittsfield year," Duquette said. "Our con- Duquette said the Dukes are would have a better chance of host-

of community services, to see if dale Sports Academy for Pitts- deal, it's hard to plan for those

To the apparent relief of some city officials and the distress of one city councilor who alleges a "tainted" process, the city this week awarded a Wahconah Park concession contract to a company affiliated with

the Pittsfield Dukes collegiate baseball team. Wahconah Park Enterprises, LLC will pay the city \$1,000 this year to operate the city-owned snack bar at

the stadium. Apostolos Restaurant Inc. — the operator of Paul's Restaurant - offered to pay the city \$2,300 for the rights to operate the concession.

A three-member evaluating committee working in conjunction with erwise he should follow the law and purchasing agent Colleen Hunter not have a tainted process." determined that Wahconah Park En- Maffuccio says that Ruberto first terprises should get the pact despite tried to get Paul's to withdraw its the lower bid from Paul's.

councilor Anthony Maffuccio - feels to comply. that the process was flawed. And Maf- "The mayor pressured me to key to the collegiate baseball team's permits for its restaurant. residency at Wahconah Park.

sioners John Herman and Charles 'It's too bad that sidewalk cafe won't Garivaltis publicly urged evaluator bethere and that deck looks like there Jim McGrath—the parks department could be zoning issues'.' director — to ensure that the Dukes Maffuccio serves as an evaluator

Kathleen Degnan said that state cated. He also has evaluated bids for law dictates that concession rights concessions at Burbank Park. at the stadium need to be put out When Apostolos Restaurant subto bid, independent of any licenses mitted a Wahconah bid, Maffuccio for other uses of the park. This year, filed a formal ethics advisory to the parks commissioners and appar-city clerk's office identifying himself ently the mayor were worried when as "close friends" with Paul's owner Paul's submitted a bid, raising the Paul Parstatatidis. possibility of the Dukes not getting Maffuccio pledged that "despite the concession pact.

behind the scenes to get Paul's out voice mail messages from the mayor

lic business," said Maffuccio. "If he Wahconah Park issue. wanted Rick Murphy [of the Dukes] On one message, the mayor's voice to have the concession, he should is heard asking "why Paul has dehave filed special legislation... Oth- cided he would like to see me embar-

Councilor alleges Wahconah Park

bid and threatened repercussions One of the evaluators — ward 7 if the Seymour Street eatery failed

fuccio alleges that Mayor James Ru- have Paul withdraw his bid," said berto applied in appropriate pressure Maffuccio. "Now he wants to make to try to force Paul's to withdraw its sure Paul does not protest the bid." bid and assure that the Dukes affiliate Maffuccio alleges that the mayor got the deal, viewed as an economic threatened that Paul's could lose city "I was told there will be conse-

This past week, parks commisquences," said Maffuccio. "I was told

as ward councilor representing the ence when awarding a contract. Last year, assistant city solicitor district where Wahconah Park is lo-

that friendship, I will impartially Maffuccio said the mayor did judge any and all bids submitted." not want a fair process and pushed The ward 7 councilor has saved

concession bid process 'tainted' Maffuccio to encourage Parstatatidis to withdraw his bid. The mayor also says, "you know what I have to do." Maffuccio also claims that a department head visited his home as an emissary from the mayor, warning that if the Dukes don't get the concession contract "we may not have

baseball in there. Maffuccio objects to the system used to evaluate the bids, whereby ratings of "advantageous" and other levels were converted into points.

Purchasing agent Colleen Hunter said that the model is routine and that the Dukes earned 30 of 32 possible points while Paul's only received 25 of 32 possible points.

"The bottom line is the Dukes scored much higher," said Hunter. The purchasing agent saw no evi-

dence of interference with the evaluation process. "To my knowledge they were ranked independently," she said. "These are based on opinion, but it's the fair way to do it."

The system gave comparatively little value to the amount of money the applicants would pay the city. For having the higher bid, Paul's received two points and the Dukes received one point. Other ratings such as employee plan were worth up to four points.

Hunter said that the low consideration for the cash payment to the city is not uncommon because the city values other factors such as experi-"There are factors you might weigh

more," she said. Maffuccio alleges that the point system is flawed and devised "after the fact.

"My biggest concern is the bullying and the threats of attacks on a businessman," he said.

The bid openings were observed by union leaders who have in the past challenged the city's Wahconah Park

On Wednesday, Ruberto worked in his City Hall office but did not asking with increasing urgency that respond to to in-person, phone "It's a poor way to conduct pubMaffucciospeak to Ruberto about the mayor offers comment after this article is published Thursday morning, the remarks will be featured in

Wahconah concession bids accepted

continued from page 1

Parks commissioner Charles of concession items. Purchasing agent chael Daly, president of Berkshire Garivaltis said it is outrageous that Colleen Hunter will then tabulate the Bank, and Jon Pickwell of Wohrles the Pittsfield Dukes — which just re-results and sealed price bids — which Food. ceived a two-year license agreement have not yet been opened — will be The application for Apostolos says to present collegiate league baseball added to the mix. games at the stadium — might not Hunter said the process could service industry for more than 27 be able to sell refreshments.

"Sometimes we should look beyond Restaurant Inc.

agreed that selling food and drinks been revealed, other aspects of the bid nah Park from 1990 to 2001 as well during Dukes games is "part of their documents are on file at City Hall. as in 2005. to give it to someone else."

The bids are being independently would charge \$2 and Parstatatidis' has to go out to bid," said McGrath. ranked on the basis of experience degroup would charge \$1.75. "The city was remiss in years past livering services, plan for customer The competitors even list two satisfaction and the proposed pricing identical business references: Mi-

conclude as early as Friday.

making a success there," he said. Park Enterprises, LLC with Rich- Palace on North Street. Garivaltis urged that McGrath and ard Murphy of the Dukes listed as "The Wahconah Concession is an the other proposal evaluators take the president, treasurer and secretary operation that Paul's Restaurant will Dukes' commitment to Wahconah and Apostolos Restaurant Inc., absorbquickly and easily into its daily which operates Paul's Restaurant at schedule during contract duration no "There's some very good things 157 Seymour Street. Paul S. Parstata- matter serving 5 or 5000," says the happening there," said Garivaltis. tidis is the president of Apostolos application.

Commissioner John Herman erators would pay the city have not supervised food services at Wahco-

economic plan." He offered to lobby The two proposals are extremely "Mr. Murphy is familiar with the those evaluating the bids, saying that similar. In a list of some two dozen concession operation at Wahconah the Dukes should get the pact "un- items, the proposed prices are the Park and has a thorough underless there's a very very good reason same on everything except for hot standing of the facility," says the

that Parstatatidis has been in the food years. He has operated Paul's since "Concessions are an integral part of The two bidders are: Wahconah 1990 and operated the former Pizza

The Wahconah Park Enterprises While the bid values that the op- application says that Murphy has

dogs, for which Murphy's group application.

Concession bids worry

Having an open bidding process to designate a concessionaire for Wahconah Park is giving some Pittsfield officials indigestion.

Two entities — a firm affiliated with a collegiate baseball team and the operator of a nearby restaurant — this past week submitted competing bids to operate the city-owned snack facilities at the stadium.

A committee consisting of a city councilor, board of health epresentative and parks adminstrator is currently evaluating the proposals.

Community services director im McGrath — one of the evaluators — said that assistant city solicitor Kathleen Degnan determined that the city had to solicit proposals to operate the Wahçonah concession. 4-13-06"If a city has a built-in concesion within a park, that concession See WAHCONAH page 15

'Vision' for Wahconah will be touted

City officials will hold a press conference on Friday morning to disc the vision for Wahconah Park, in light of its recent designation on the Vational Register of Historic Places," according to an advisory from the nayor's office. Organizers of an effort to earn historic designation learned last week that

he National Park Service had approved the application. Former ward 7 councilor Joe Guzzo initiated the campaign nearly four

years ago. Among those working on the project were former Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski; former historic commission chairman Bob Boland; researcher Dave Potts; and community services director Jim McGrath. Guzzo said that beyond the value of certifying the park's stature, the

formal recognition may have tangible benefits. "The designation as a National Historic Place will now make us eligible to apply for up to \$100,000 in state preservation grant funding," he said. "We also will be eligible for federal historic preservation grants when that

funding is available." The material collected by the group to document the history of the park — including both the stadium and adjacent land — has been compiled into a chronology now on file in the local history department of the Berkshire

Promoter denies Wahconah Park rumors

Saturday seeking comment. name would be mentioned in con- ilar to last year's show.

conah Park. Buffett will be playing between Aug. 25 and Aug. 27. on Aug. 10 and 12, which are the ment shortly," he said. for his current tour.

A representative of Buffett's east in late August, with shows management company said yester- scheduled in Hartford, Conn., on Tony Dobrowolski can be reached day that the firm knows nothing Aug. 24; Atlantic City on Aug. 26, at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle about a possible concert in Pitts- and the Tweeter Center on Aug. .com or at (413) 496-6224.

27. There is no show scheduled for Fein did say that he is "very Aug. 25. return several telephone calls on close" to wrapping up negotiations Last year's sold-out Dylan/Nelto bring a concert to Wahconah son concert, which took place in He declined to comment yester- Park in late August. He has said June, drew a reported 10,000 fans

nection with Pittsfield, or on other The Park Commission has grant- with JAM and Mass Concerts, has P rumors regarding the possibility of ed Fein permission to use Pitts- said that he plans to bring adult-Jimmy Buffett coming to Wah- field's 3,100-seat historic ballpark the Tweeter Center in Mansfield "We hope to have an announce-

ald tour also will be in the North-

day when asked why Steely Dan's that this year's concert will be sim- to Wahconah Park. Fein, who promoted that show in conjunction oriented rock 'n' roll to Wahconah Park this summer.

Mayor James M. Ruberto has said that plans call for the concert last dates posted on his Web site

The Steely Dan/Michael McDonto feature a double bill similar to

Vintage baseball tournament scheduled

This event is the only 1886 vin- The winning teams meet Sunday, and two hours. Eight teams from Massachusetts, 11 a.m. tournament.

The Elms will begin play at Wahco- The Elms are charging \$10 specta- www.pittsfieldelms.com

The Pittsfield Elms vintage baseball nah Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May tor admission for the tournament; team will sponsor a two-day tourna- 27 versus the Westfield Wheelmen. children under 13 are free with paid ment at Wahconah and Clapp parks Three other games will follow at 12: adult admission. 30, 3 and 5:30 p.m.

Connecticut and New Jersey will be Consolation games will take place 50 feet.

11 a.m.

Games are limited to seven innings

tage tournament in the northeast. May 28 at Wahconah beginning at 1866 rules will be used, including gloves and overhand pitching from

completing in a single-elimination Sunday at Clapp Park beginning at For information about the vintage tournament, visit

ylan revisiting Wahconah

By Tony Dobrowolski

turn to Wahconah Park this summer.
The announcement will end two cert featuring Dylan, Jimmie Vaughan, that began in April when the Park Junior Brown and Elana James and the Commission gave concert promoter Continental Two will take place on Gene Fein permission to use city-Saturday, Aug. 26, at Wahconah Park. owned Wahconah Park between Aug.

The City of Pittsfield has sched- 25 and 27. uled a news conference for 10 a.m. Fein, of Berkshire Music Glen Protoday at Wahconah Park to announce ductions, promoted last June's Dylthat "major world-renowned music an/Willie Nelson concert, a sold-out acts" are scheduled to appear at the historic baseball stadium. Through

his aide, John Krol, Mayor James M. Ruberto yesterday declined com-PITTSFIELD — Bob Dylan will rement on the Dylan announcement. According to a reliable source, a con-months of speculation and rumors

ON THE WEB: The Eagle first published a portion of this story on www.berkshireeagle.com. Visit the site for breaking news.

Dylan returns to Wahconah Park



Dylan with Jimmie Vaughn Junior Brown and Elana Continental When: Sat., Aug. 26

Ticket info.: Courtesy photo TBA

Tuesday, August 8,

Arguably the largest concert in Pittsfield's history came last year when Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson played Wahconah Park. According to a reliable source, Dylan will be returning to the venue to play in August.

Organizers hoping to hit again with Dylan DYLAN from A1

10,000 people to 3,100-seat Waharguably the largest concert in the city's history.

Dylan also appeared in Pittsfield in the early 1960s with Joan Baez at the Pittsfield Boys' Club when he was not listed on the bill. Baez introduced Dylan as a "great young talent.'

He has also played The Shed at Tanglewood twice, most recently years. She also played on Dylan at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com with Ani DiFranco in August 1997. Dylan's first Tanglewood concert, a solo show on July 4, 1991, drew a then-record crowd of 20,516 fans to the Lenox venue.

Dylan is currently in the middle of his 2006 European summer tour, which ends on July 20 in Cosenza, Italy.

Vaughan, the brother of the late legendary blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan, was a founding member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, with whom he played 16 years before leaving in 1990. He has released five solo albums since then. One of those recordings, "Do You Get The Blues," released in 2001, won a Grammy in the Best Traditional Blues Album category. He played on Dylan's 1990 album, "Under The Red Sky."

Brown, a native of Austin, Texas. is known as a multi-faceted musician who has released five solo albums since 1990. He also invent-

show that drew an estimated steel guitar necks. Thirsty Ear, an A native of Kansas City who is

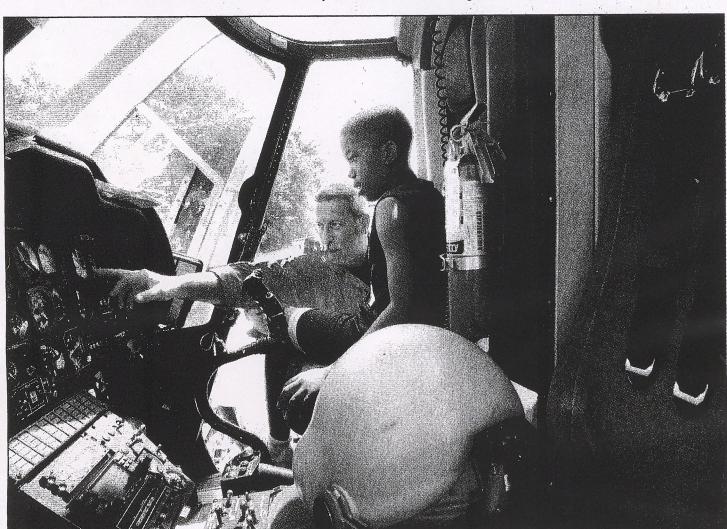
man, played violin in Dylan's band

James' current band are Beau during his spring 2005 tour. According to her band's Web site, James was the first female musician to perform in Dylan's band in 30 and Nelson's 2004 tour of minor or at (413) 496-6224.

ed the "guit-steel," an instrument league baseball stadiums as a that includes both the guitar and member of Hot Club of Cowtown. online music magazine, refers to currently based in Austin, Texas, conah Park. Last year's show was Brown as the "Hendrix of Twang." Fremerman changed her last name Elana James and The Contin- to James last year when she adopted ental Two formed after James, forthe last name of her paternal grandmerly known as Elana Fremer-father. The two other members of

> and guitarist/vocalist Luke Hill. Tony Dobrowolski can be reached

Sample, who plays the upright bass,



Routine for some, extraordinary for others

Photos by Ben Garver / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Touchdown at Wahconah Park

Above, Pilot Ray Giganti gives an impromptu tour of his medical helicopter to Marquise Hamilton, 10, who was at Wahconah Park yesterday when the helicopter landed in the parking lot on a routine patient transfer. At right, the Westchester (N.Y.) Medical Center helicopter lands at Wahconah to deliver the patient to Berkshire Medical Center. Before taking off again, Giganti showed children the inside of the aircraft.



Wahconah lights eyed Energy upgrade urged for municipal stadium

A city councilor is pushing for a long-term solution to the pricey, outdated lights at Wahconah

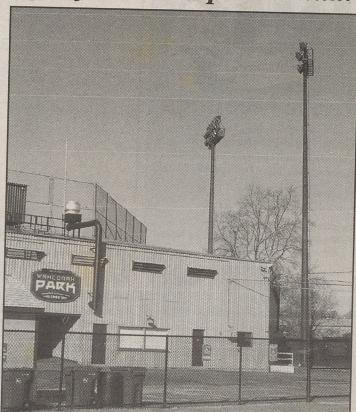
Ward 7 councilor Anthony Maffuccio has proposed installing new lights and investigating installation of a generator at the municipal stadium.

"Why would we wait?" asked Maffuccio. "Wahconah Park has been stagnant for a little while and now I think it's time to start concentrating on it."

The outmoded lights at the facility attracted attention this year when St. Joseph Central High School advocates lobbied for city funds to allow lights to be turned on for additional high school football games. In recent years, booster clubs have footed the bills for "Friday Night Lights" but the bills have been getting larger.

Community services director Jim Mc-Grath said that just turning on the lights during a 30-day billing period incurs a cost in the range of \$1,800 in addition to whatever wattage is actually used.

"The current system is antiquated," said McGrath. "It takes a lot of electricity to run those lights, they're not very efficient." While councilors were loathe to release Rather than wait, city councilor Anthony Maffuccio wants the



supplementary municipal funds for the city to begin a process to obtain more cost-effective lights for See WAHCONAH page 19 Wahconah Park.

Wahconah lights targeted

continued from page 1

lighting midyear, the issue was temporarily resolved when a private donor stepped forward to fund 2006 costs.

Maffuccio wants to begin work now to avoid a repeat of the perennial issue. He has petitioned for the parks department to pursue a new light-

"I'm sure there's programs out there that will help," he said. "If we plan it now, we'll be ready.'

The councilor is concerned that Wahconah Park has not received promised

investment. "Wahconah Park should be on the radar," he said. Maffuccio said that officials touted funding possibilities for the facility after it earned national historic register designation this past year, but he's seen no efforts to obtain grants. "Since it got put on the registry and there was the big ta-due, everyone seems to have walked away from it," said Maffuccio.

The councilor also thinks his proposal for a generator could help mitigate the sticker shock from the high "demand" charges — a common problem for small businesses — at the park.

"If we had our own generated power we wouldn't have to pay the \$1,800 a month fee," he said.

Maffuccio said other ball fields, such as the Belanger facility on Newell Street, have employed small generators to control electricity costs.

"It would require a good initial investment but in the long run, the city would be paying the same money," he said. McGrath agrees with Maffuccio that a long-term lighting solution is

needed at Wahconah, but the community services director isn't a fan of the generator idea. "It's not a solution," he said. "It would have to be awfully large to solely

power our needs down there." But McGrath said he's already begun exploring the costs of a more energy-efficient lighting system for Wahconah Park,

"It's looking anywhere from \$75,000 to \$125,000," he said based on preliminary discussions. "That would be a capital improvement the city would have to bond for or cover through a grant." For the time being, McGrath said that the city "will continue to use

Western Mass. Electric Company for our needs down there and will have to absorb costs for the demand charges." McGrath said that the parks department budget proposal for the next fiscal year will include more funds for utilities with a breakdown of where

the money would go. "I hope the council can get behind a budget increase," he said. "I'd really

like to see more funding for youth sports down there." McGrath said that devising a long-term solution won't be quick. "It's certainly a priority to address the lighting situation down there but it's gong to take some time and commitment to work through," he said.

Wahconah welcomes Dylan back

have been something about that he has traditionally done. are \$49.50, the same price as playing Wahconah Park last "Maybe there's a clue in the last year, and will go on sale at year that Bob Dylan really liked. title of his documentary, 'No 10 a.m. on July 8.

just-announced summer tour of years. "Who knows." that he also visited last year.

consecutive years. "I can't speculate on why he it was the biggest concert in Children under the age of 12 doesn't play two venues in a Pittsfield's history. row," Fein said yesterday morn- This year, Dylan will be ap-

conference officially announc- and Lou Ann Barton, Junior ing this year's show. "I can only Brown, and Elana James and PITTSFIELD — There must tell you that it's not something the Continental Two. All tickets

minor league baseball stadiums When Dylan appeared with Center, and at Ticketmaster Concert promoter Gene Fein Park last year, the concert drew chased at Ticketmaster. com. said it is "extremely rare" for around 10,000 fans to Pitts- "Last year, I think the tickets Dylan to play the same venue in field's historic 3,100-seat base- sold out within an hour," he ball stadium. City officials claim added.

ing at a Wahconah Park news pearing with Jimmie Vaughan

Dylan is returning to the Direction Home," Fein said, Locally, tickets can be purvenue on Saturday, Aug. 26, and hinting at the mystery that has chased at the Wood Bros. Music Pittsfield is the only stop on his surrounded Dylan for over 40 Store, which has 1,000 tickets, in Pittsfield's Allendale Shopping Willie Nelson at Wahconah outlets. They can also be pur-

who are accompanied by an adult

DYLAN, continued on B8

If you go ...

Who: Bob Dylan, Jimmie Vaughan with Lou Ann Barton, Junior Brown, Elana James & The Continental Two. Where: Wahconah Park, Saturday, Aug. 26. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets: All tickets are \$49.50. They go on sale at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 8. Tickets are available locally at Wood Bros. Music

Store in Pittsfield and at Ticketmaster outlets. Tour Stops: Dylan's other New England concerts: Pawtucket, R.I., Aug. 24; Manchester, N.H., Aug. 27; New Britain, Conn., Aug. 29. New York dates: Rochester, Aug. 30; Wappingers Falls, Sept. 1;

Trivia: Wahconah Park is the only venue that Dylan played on last summer's tour of minor league baseball stadiums that he chose to revisit. It is also the only ballpark on his current tour that no longer has minor league baseball.

- Tony Dobrowolski

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, July 1, 2006

Greeting the hometown team

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Tuesday, June 13, 2006



The mascot for the Pittsfield Dukes greets Patrick Reu, 3, and his sister, Samantha Reu, 7, last night at Wahconah Park. The game marked the home opener for the Dukes.

Season springs to start

By Bonnie Obremski

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Dukes of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) batted another page of opening-day history into the walls of Wahconah Park yesterday. A few hundred fans seized the challenge of filling a stadium built for more than a thousand and clapped with wide-swinging arms and firecracker whistles. "Hope and excitement," Dukes

owner Dan Du-

quette said,

leaning on the

counter of the

concession

stand and gaz-

ing across the field, "That's what opening day is all about." Dukes lost to Keene, 6-5, last night. Sports, C1.

the most excited of all. "We got all the autographs of the emerging wide-eyed from behind the her smile. dugout with her younger brother and

how far they can hit the ball."

"I like that baseball team," her when she was 7 years old. brother, Patrick, 3, said as he pointed Beverly Luscier, 53, of Pittsfield and

Fans were scattered throughout Wahconah Park in Pittsfield last night for the home opener of the Pittsfield Dukes.

Reu, 7, of Pitts- Pat Conway, 47, of Dalton were third Wahconah Park. field appeared in line to purchase tickets almost an hour before the game began.

"We like the handsome guys," Pittsfield Dukes," she said, squealing, Luscier said, putting her hand over

"We just wish the team had a different name. It should be the Red Sox," "I've seen baseball on TV but never Conway said. From 1965 to 1969, the live," Samantha said, grinning at the Pittsfield Red Sox, an Eastern League players warming up. "I want to see affiliate, played at Wahconah, where Tanner said, "It's a good local event, Conway remembers seeing them the camaraderie, the singing and clap-

Rick Kidney, 43, of Pittsfield was this year. The locals sometimes can't first in line to enter the park. He said he attended every game last year at

"I hope they do better than last year," Kidney said. The Dukes finished 11-31, last in the 12-team NECBL last season. Pittsfield stands at 1-3 after last night's 6-5 loss to Keene.

Lynne Tanner of Pittsfield stood second in line with her daughter Jennifer, 15.

"We're Dukes fans whether they have a good season or not," Lynne ping. We hope there are more fans

DUKES, continued on A3

Dylan plans repeat visit to Wahconah Park

DYLAN from B1

ticketholder will be admitted free. Pittsfield Mayor James M. Ruberto hopes that Dylan's willingness to return to Wahconah Park this year means he will put on a special show.

"I think this time it's even going to be better," Ruberto said. "Because we're going to have the true appreciation of someone who wants to perform in Pittsfield after having performed here before." Dylan is no stranger to the

Berkshires, having also played at the then-Pittsfield Boys' Club in the early 1960s when he was a virtually unknown folk singer, and at Tanglewood twice in the 1990s. This year's show takes place three days before the official open-

ing of the Colonial Theater on Aug. 29, which is also the release date two weeks after the Barrington the citizens of Pittsfield that our "We're turning Pittsfield into the our audiences because we're so traditional venues for music many

entertainment center of Berkshire appreciative." ahead," said Ruberto, who has tions, consisting of Fein and his touted culture as an economic wife, Lee native Lisa Willey-Fein, show may be adjusted depending The city made no direct money with JAM and Mass Concerts, who

on last year's show, although Fein helped put on last year's show. paid the city \$6,000 to use Wah- The announcement that Dylan will conah Park. Ruberto said yesterday be returning to Pittsfield ends two that there is no change in this year's months of speculation and rumors in proportion to what we did last 'No, not really," the mayor said.

He said the Park Commission began after the Park Commission approved Fein's request in April to granted Fein permission to use the use Wahconah Park between Aug. park in early April. 25 and 27 because the board recog- Fein said yesterday that no other nized the importance of showcas- performers were considered for ing Pittsfield's ballpark.

'This is an historic venue," Ruberto said. "To bring Bob Dylan he said. means an awful lot to the local the challenges involved in booking or at (413) 496-6224.

Wahconah Park is still

I have traveled every year to

Wahconah Park since 1994 to see

at least one game a year there. I

really enjoyed the Pittsfield Mets

and the short residence of the

Last Tuesday, knowing that it

was the last game of the year for

the Pittsfield Dukes, I traveled

from my job in the Hartford area

to Wahconah again. The NECBL

is not minor league ball by any

means, but the atmosphere is still

great in the park and, to me, worth

the trip. After the game I grabbed

a bite at a local brewpub and head-

ed back to the Pike. A nice night

Pittsfield has a real gem in

Wahconah Park and I am glad the

Dukes are playing there. The town

should do anything it can to keep

some kind of baseball league

active in that park. Standing in the

right field bleachers, looking out

over the moonlit night and the

field below - well, Wahconah

STEPHEN HARTWELL

Park is Wahconah Park.

Wethersfield, Copn.

out in Pittsfield.

a plus for Pittsfield

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:-

Berkshire Black Bears.



Gene Fein aand Lisa Willey-Fein are the promoters of the upcoming

for Dylan's new album, "Modern merchants and business people, a summer tour in venues that nor-Times." The concert also occurs and it also means an awful lot to mally don't host musical acts. "A tour like this is so unique Stage Company is scheduled to community is growing and that because this is a ballpark tour,' open its first production at its new entertainers like Bob Dylan really Fein said. "They go to ballparks do want to come and perform for across the country which aren't

Bob Dylan Concert at Wahconah Park.

for a Wahconah Park show that

"It was Bob Dylan all the way,"

this year's show.

times. Those take a little more leg-Berkshire Music Glen Produc- work sometimes to get done." Fein said the stage for this year's is promoting this year's concert on the number of tickets sold. "The only changes that we may make this year are changes to capacity. So if we end up with more people, we'll increase things

regarding the possible performers year in terms of resources and infrastructure," Fein said. "But the planning last year I think was done "I think anyone who was in the park last year thought it was a

hoping to build on that." back to Pittsfield, to bring 10,000 Fein said this year's concert took Tony Dobrowolski can be reached people or more to this location, a long time to schedule because of at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com

evening," Fein added, "and we're

Tyler Lancia, 7, and his brothers, Mitchell, 10, and Zachary, 12, watch as a long fly ball heads to left field in yesterday's Vintage Base Ball Tournament at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield. Their father, Mark Lancia, plays for the Pittsfield Elms.

Pittsfield Elms win tourney

TOURNAMENT from B1

op striking out seven and allowing up right behind the batter, in part to only six hits.

which fans (or "cranks," or "bugs," the knuckles were invisible. in 19th-century terminology) were treated vesterday.

For one thing, the tiny gloves And, of course, in the 19th centumake every ball struck into the field ry, there were no shin pads, no knee a potential hit. The tiny gloves do guards, no real chest protector and not enable fielders to make one- no hard helmets. Foul tips are the handed catches too often. With no bane of a vintage catcher's existence. webbing in the gloves, high pop Yesterday, Reynolds took a flies must be caught two-handed in sort of a basket motion. And the instep, a couple more off the ball doesn't always nestle into the shoulder and one on the inner glove very well. Both teams saw thigh. But he kept the ball in front outfielders bobble high hits for of him for the most part, and

"Every play is an adventure," said third baseman Sean "Itch" McMahon. "When you see the ball said Elms manager Paul Procopio. coming toward you, the best thing "If you have a good catcher, you'll throw the guy out."

velocity for accuracy.

"The gloves are great teaching assistant coach at Hoosac Valley

'Tiny glove' syndrome

The best evidence of the "tiny glove" syndrome came in the fifth inning, with Elms batter Pat "The Gun" Ryan up. Ryan drilled a shot into the gap that a Senators' player dove for and missed. The ball rolled all the way to the 374 sign in center field, and Ryan tore Reynolds, and zipped the ball in around the bases for an insidethe play was a throw from the outfield to the Hartford catcher. The throw was pretty much on the money, but the catcher had to concentrate on trying to field the ball with Ryan bearing down on

The Elms' catcher is Backhoe Reynolds, a former star at St. Joseph's High School. He displays game here. But everyone in the a lot of what would be called "ginger" in 1876. That means he's teams."

him. He muffed it and Ryan

The Backhoe, unlike many of his club the Senators, 16-7, with Bish-vintage contemporary catchers, sets

give his pitcher a bigger target. Also among the eight teams were But this is a problem. As with nines from Boston, Elizabeth City, many vintage backstoppers, Rey-New Jersey, Waterbury, Conn., and nolds wears a catcher's mitt that is only incrementally larger than the Although the game is recogniza-fielders' gloves. The first time he ble as baseball, there are huge dif- caught a vintage game, about three ferences in the game that is seen years ago, Reynolds recalled that regularly on television and to his catching hand was so swollen

Vintage hardships

pitch on the shin, a couple on the Hartford took only three bases on

passed balls. "Your catcher is your key player,"

to do is knock it down and try to have a chance to win every game." Bishop, his battery mate, was a Of course, conceded McMahon, flame-throwing lefty in his high the problem is that the first base- school and minor league incarnaman has an equally tiny glove, and tion. Now, admits Bishop, he has trying to gun the ball more often to focus more on pitching to spots, than not results in an error. The especially since the vintage rules trick, he said, is to try to sacrifice require him to place the ball

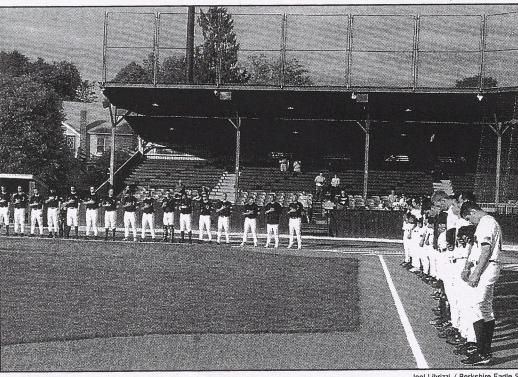
where the batter desires it. "You have to rely more on offtools," said McMahon, who is an speed and junk stuff," he said. "But at the same time, you can still High School. "We use them in pick your spots and throw hard from time to time."

But pitchers do have weapons For instance, the so-called "quick pitch" is legal in vintage base ball. So at one point, Bishop and Reynolds realized that one of the Hartford players was taking too much time in the batters box. Bishop gunned in a pitch for strike two, got the ball back quickly from for strike three while the batter the-park home run. The climax of was still knocking dirt off his

spikes. "You can't step out of the batters' box in this game," Procopio said. If there was one disappointment, it was the crowd, which numbered maybe 125, many from

"There are more Hartford fans here," admitted Procopio. "We still have to work on selling this crowd had fun today, including the

The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, June 13, 2006 — A3



Members of the Pittsfield Dukes, right, and Keene Swampbats, left, line up along the baselines before last night's game at Wahconah Park.

Fans ring in another Dukes season

seats at only seven dollars, you first pitch. can't go wrong."

"It's fun," her daughter said laughing. Actor/singer Donald Grody of

at the Barrington Stage Company, sang the national anthem. His long-lost sun set his white hair some from Division A."

New York City, who is performing and a Siena College junior, play.

turquoise mesh shirt and zip-off Tony Willis said. "I think [the Dukes] hiking pants matched the casual are a high-caliber team. These kids to put the game into an old flickatmosphere, and the Berkshires' are from good baseball colleges and ering film from a forgotten reel.

ablaze. He high-fived the Dukes' The Willises watched in the bot-report.

mascot as he sauntered off the tom of the first as their son made field. Parks Commission Chair- the first big hit of the game. The get tickets to anything, so with box man Charles Garivaltis threw the double sailed over left field, following the echo of a solid, wooden Barbara and Tony Willis drove crack. The crowd murmured that from Niantic, Conn., to watch their it was a goner before it finally son Jake, Pittsfield's third baseman bounced against the back wall. The cheers seemed to come from "I like the old-fashioned parks. a bigger crowd. The red sand You don't see many like this one," stained Willis' white cotton uniform as the winking light seemed

Than Nay contributed to this

Dylan encore smaller; fans still fervent

Music legend returns to Wahconah Park

baseball stadium's seating capacity.

Although the turnout was significantly has been to 31 Dylan shows since the 1980s. smaller than last year's crowd of 10,000, fans

But Gubitz was right. Mingling through the sang nothing but praise when asked, "How does it feel to be in the presence of a legend?"

"It's all about Bob," said Steve Laier, 48, of New Lebanon, N.Y., who was tailgating prior PITTSFIELD — The times may be a- to the show with of nine people of varying ages. changin', but the devotion of Bob Dylan's fans "You cannot stereotype a Dylan fan. Some still remains uncompromised.

A total of 6,000 tickets were sold for last night's Wahconah Park show, according to official from Dula in the still remains uncompromised.

A total of 6,000 tickets were sold for last night's Wahconah Park show, according to official from Dula in the still remains uncompromised.

A total of 6,000 tickets were sold for last night's Wahconah Park show, according to official from Dula in the still remains uncompromised.

A total of 6,000 tickets were sold for last night's Wahconah Park show, according to official from Dula in the still remains uncompromised. officials from Dylan's tour, nearly double the baseball stadium's seating capacity.

that his group of concertgoers was brought together by his wife, Alison Appleby, 34, who

DYLAN, continued on A6



left, and Abby Nisbet of Sanbornton, N.H., wait in a long line for the Bob Dylan concert at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield yesterday. They arrived at the park at 10:30 a.m. to stake out a spot.

Stephen Rose / Special to The Eagle

6,000 Dylan tickets sold

DYLAN from A1

throngs of fans yielded no common denominator, aside from the intrigue with the singer himself. At age 65, Dylan has endured

years of success. And with a new album titled Modern Times due out Tuesday, fans of all ages are anticipating more good years to

"He transcends generations," said Eva Wilkinson, 64, of North Adams.

And the generations represented last night were vast, from tots standing at knee height to velvet jacket-clad twentysomething hipsters to the graying folks wearing authentic vintage Dylan shirts of decades past.

Among the first people to enter the stage area last night were members of the Sweet family of Connecticut.

Lily-Rose, 15, and Melinda, 17, had arrived with their father, Michael Sweet, 42, just before 9 a.m. yesterday to wait in line. She remembers her first Dylan Despite their youth, Lily-Rose has experience — sitting on a girlseen the 65-year-old singer 27 friend's bed in 1965 with a record times and her sister, 30 times.

"Nothing beats it," Melinda "and I never stopped listening." said. The family just saw Dylan Maschmeyer and many other Stadium in Pawtucket, R.I.

Dylan because of their dad.

"I play a lot of Bob Dylan at having fun." cassette of Dylan tunes at age 9. icon, May 24.

word he sings."

Dylan doesn't compromise. He's a find."

Bob Dylan trivia

His new album, Modern Times, is due out in stores this Tuesday; his first album of new music since releasing Love and Theft on

Recording artist Twyla Tharp The Times They Are A-Changin' Atkinson Theatre on Sept. 25.

home, so it was kind of hard for Dale Metzger, 51, of Albany, them not to hear it," said Sweet, N.Y., is a longtime fan who shares who remembers buying his first the same birthday as the folk rock

"There's no one else who can Metzger wore a T-shirt with a combine music and singing and Dylan caricature drawn by MAD words like him," he said adding, magazine cartoonist John Caldwell. Scrabble with Bob. He finds the

great poet and still piques our "[Dylan] keeps on redefining

Bob Dylan was born in Duluth, Minn., as Robert Allen

Zimmerman on May 24, 1941.

Sept. 11, 2001. has produced a Broadway musical based on Dylan's recordings; opens on the Big Apple's Brooks

Dylan is no stranger to the Berkshires. Before last year's show at Wahconah Park, he performed in the then Pittsfield Boys' Club in the early 1960s and played two concerts in Lenox's Tanglewood in 1990s. He also informally patroned Becket's Dream Away Lodge in

player in Glastonbury, Conn. —

play Thursday night at another female fans said that Dylan's other minor-league ballpark, McCoy big draw is his sex appeal, noting that her favorite song is "Lay, The girls said they got into Lady, Lay" because "it is the epitome of romantic language and

"and I understand every single The caption on it read: "Never play "I really and truly believe he is a words you'll never imagine and folk artist of our generation. imagines the words you'll never

curiosity," said Elizabeth Masch- himself. He's one of the few artists meyer, 54, of Monterey, who was on the never-ending tour, and he seeing the singer perform for the only gets better with age," Metzger said.



Aidan McKeever, 11, from Brooklyn, N.Y., watches the last game of the season for the Pittsfield Dukes last night along with his fellow

SteepleCats fans, meanwhile,

'Cats prepare for playoffs

campers from the Dan Duquette Sports Academy.

RIVALRY from A1

will see us and ask how we're any alternative activities until at doing. [They] say they're glad to least next week. see us and they appreciate us "We're still going," David La- or Republicans to turn in signabeing there. The first year I think marre said. "We plan to be at as tures to their respective cities and the team saw the fans supporting many as we can. We [probably towns. Both Mihos and Ross must them and played hard because of have a couple more home games, that. When they played hard, more hopefully there will be more than fans came out to support them."

David and Jane Lamarre, a couple from North Adams, mirrored Charon's statements. Jane volunteers to work the ticket gate at SteepleCats home games, while her husband watched every home game from the stands. Last year, the Lamarres planned a SteepleCats road game into their annual vacation to Maine.

Last night's game brought together two groups of solid fans. Both the SteepleCats and the Dukes rank in the top half of the league in attendance.

With a schedule that seemed to be full of postponements and make-up dates - including last night's game - the Dukes failed to match last year's attendance mark. Still, the team had the fourth-best attendance in the NECBL and was one of six teams to draw more than 1,000 fans a night. The Dukes will be back at Wahconah Park next year, their final year of the current lease

"We'd hoped to beat last year, but we had some terrible weather," said Dukes owner Dan Duquette. "We had our opener postponed and a fireworks night postponed. Overail we're happy with the support. We set a team record with 5,285 fans on July 4th, and we've had great crowds the last week of the season. Our fans warmed up with the weather. Unfortunately, the team didn't."

Despite finishing in last place for the third straight season, Pittsfield fans weren't too disappointed with the entertainment. "I love having the team," Bus-

house said. "There aren't really any organized competitive sports around now. This is over, my season is over. It makes it interesting to live here. It's something to do. mean, what else am I going to do? Go to the Colonial Theatre?"

Patrick has "serious reservations" about bringing casinos to Massachusetts and wants to study the issue more, according to a

reached by phone yesterday. The other candidates for gover-

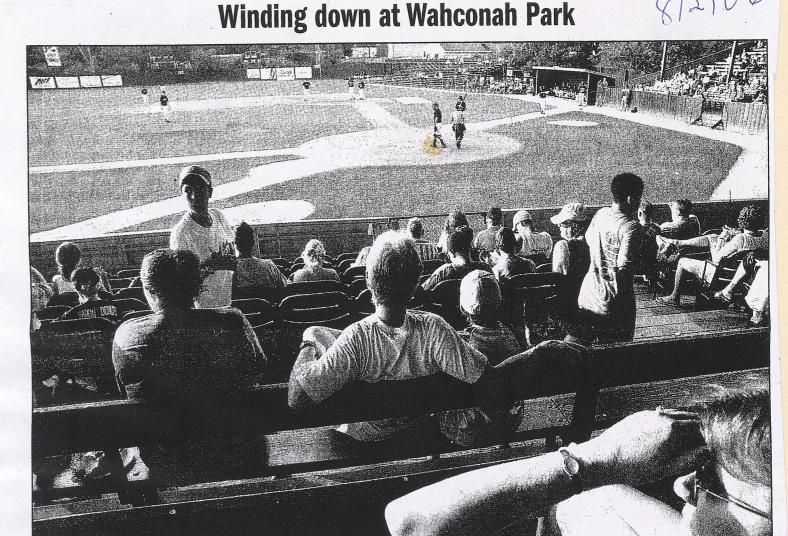
nor range in their stances.

campaign statement; Democrat and Attorney General Tom Reilly has said he is open to considering the expansion of gambling; Independent candidate Christy Mihos supports slot machines at race tracks but does not support the legalization of casinos; and Republican Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey said casinos are a "bad idea" for Massachusetts in a statement yesterday

Two turn in signatures

BOSTON — The gubernatorial campaigns for Christy Mihos and Grace Ross yesterday said they are optimistic that their candidates have secured enough signatures from registered voters to are hoping that they won't need make the 2006 ballot.

Yesterday was the deadline for candidates other than Democrats present 10,000 signatures from registered voters to earn a place on the ballot.



Fans gather at the final Pittsfield Dukes game of the season last night at Wahconah Park. Below, Thomas Vogel, 6, of Pittsfield has his baseball cap straightened by his father, Peter, before heading out to throw out the first pitch.

Season closes for friends, rivalry

PITTSFIELD - Mildred Persip sat near the back of Wahconah Park with a scorebook in her lap and a pen in her hand, just as she has for nearly every Pittsfield Dukes game this season, and just as the 92-year-old has been doing for 41 years. Persip was at the regular-season finale between

the Pittsfield Dukes and North Adams Steeple-Cats last night, along with close friend Phyllis Smith, to enjoy the final moments of her summer

"It's kind of a sad feeling tonight," Smith said. "I hate when the season ends."

Collegiate Baseball League season come to a ball. You couldn't ask for a better ending." close yesterday with the SteepleCats beating the Smith, 69, has been to every Dukes home game Dukes 7-1 in a game between two Berkshire this season and began attending games at Wah-County rivals.

"You've got to thank the schedule-makers," free admission. said 15-year-old Pittsfield resident Mark Bush- Persip has missed just one game and keeps the ouse. "I followed North Adams and Pittsfield last scorecards from each at her home. She's been year, so it's great to see them both here. Some attending games at Wahconah Park since the



A crowd of 1,807 watched the New England people are here for fireworks. I'm here for base-

conah Park as a youngster, scaling the fences for

gan playing there in SteepleCats finished a playoff-worthy season with a 7-1

friends talk often win over the Pittsfield Dukes throughout the year, last night in the regular seatheir trips to Dukes games allow for more face-to-face contact. "I always miss the games the most," Persip said.

"What about me?" Smith asked, laughing. "Oh yeah. That too," Persip responded. And while Pittsfield fans were on hand to say goodbye, a number of North Adams fans made the trip to Wahconah Park to watch their team

son finale. Sports, C1.

prepare to advance.

Dave Charon, a 55-year-old resident of Adams, drove down to Pittsfield last night to show his appreciation for a team headed to the playoffs. "My father and I have been season-ticket holders for four or five years," Charon said. "Players

RIVALRY, continued on A3

Hosting drum show requires unusual logistics

urday, the first in a series of and direct the driver to the school Street near the Berkshire Mu- While the corps are self sufficient,

In eight waves, busses, trailers are addressed. and food wagons will deliver the performers, support personnel and the optimal that they are they're here" said equipment for Sunday night's "Precision & Pageantry" drum corps show

Marchetti. "We hop on the bus and at Wahconah Park.

"They travel with everything they need," said Peter Marchetti, treasurer of the Pittsfield Parade Committee, which is hosting the event.

As each of this year's eight corps aged 13 to 21.

At around midnight on Sat- committee will board the lead bus caravans will arrive on South for the night.

the hosts try to make sure their needs

"We'll have someone from the pago with them to the school."

The city provides the committee with free use of the buildings to house

"They don't ask for much. They the night they are here." arrive, a volunteer from the parade want the ability to shower, a gym Upon arrival, the performers are

the visiting corps, which consist of floor to sleep on and some place to again. between 30 and 135 members, most get water and plug in for electricity," he said. "That's their grand hotel for we provide a practice field to certain

exhausted from a show elsewhere and then traveling. "When we bring them to the school, they all mutter hello as they go by with sleeping bags in one hand, a duffel in the other," Marchetti said. "The first thing they ask is 'do you have toilets here?' and 'do you have hot water here'?"

After the late-night arrival, the performers will be up early for breakfast —fixed in their mobile kitchens. Then they head for a practice field and the evening show, before hitting the road

"One of the requirements is that specifications," said Marchetti.



The Sprartans are among eight corps performing Sunday at Wah-See DRUM page 3 conah Park.

Drum corps stay in school gyms

continued from page 17 6 5 "They really control it all," said This year's lineup includes 7th services in the city they may need that participate."

The parade committee resumed the will feature eight squads. tradition of hosting Drum Corps In- "We've had the reputation of be- After leaving Pittsfield, the corps

mance in 2005, generating a profit pleased last year." of some \$13,000 for the financially Parade committee volunteers also This year's show takes place at 7 strapped parade committee.

same," said Marchetti.

years as traditional donations have for visiting judges.

does present risks. The committee's nate the event. expenses for the show will total some "It went extremely well last year," Tickets may also be ordered by and a range of insurance policies. work with."

passing out awards. The committee is general admission.

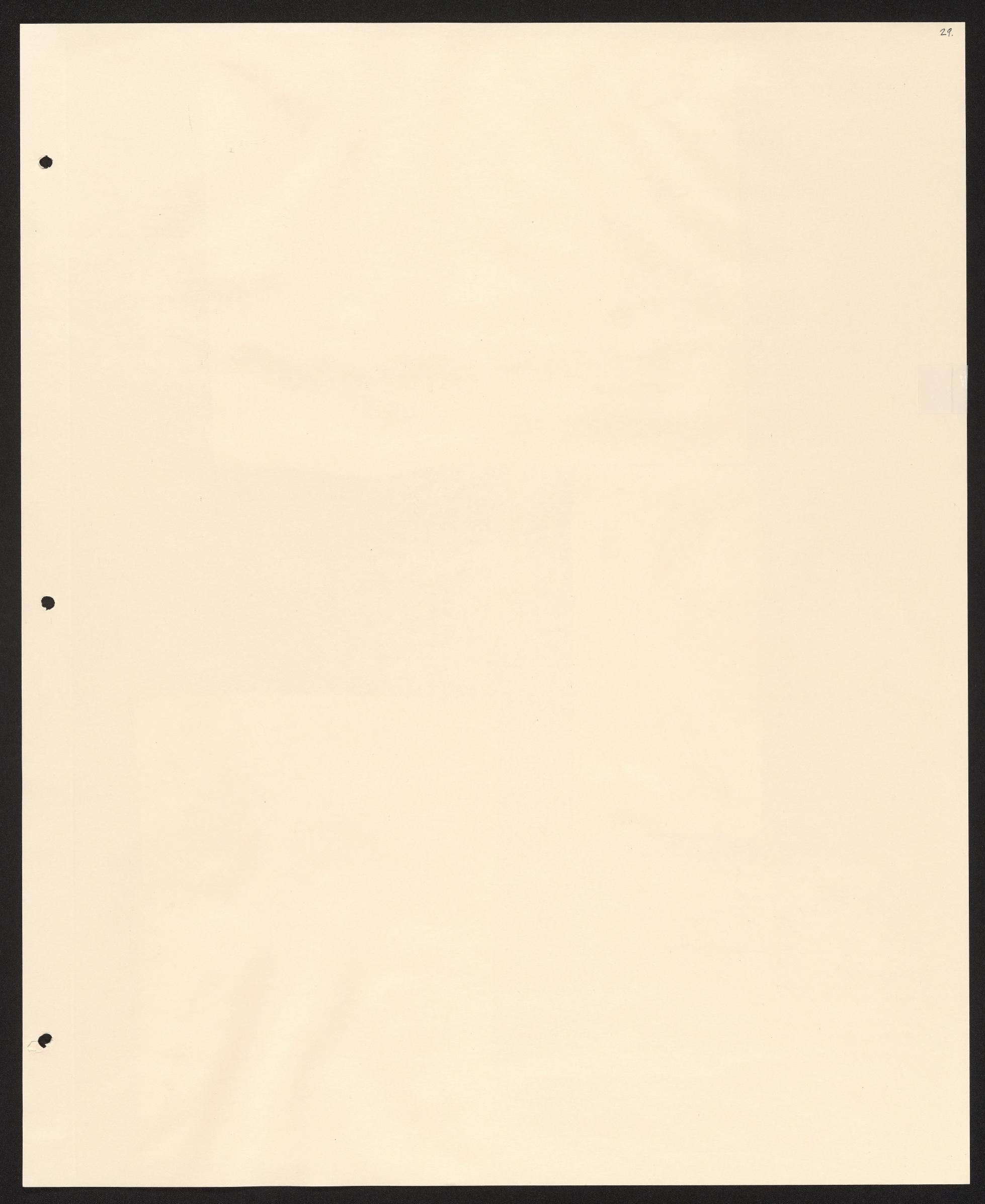
The committee assigns a "corps Marchetti. "We apply for a show Regiment, based in New London, guide" to act as liaison for each visit and once it is accepted, they give Conn; HYPE Ontario, Canada; Citaing group. The leaders receive packets us the date based on what the tour tions, Burlington, Mass.; East Coast with information and directions for looks like... They also pick the corps Jazz, Malden, Mass.; Vision Elite, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Spartans, Nashua, such as grocery stores, laundromats Last year's event featured ten New Hampshire; Spirit of Newark, and diesel fuel stations. traveling corps, while this year's New Jersey; and Targets, Springfield,

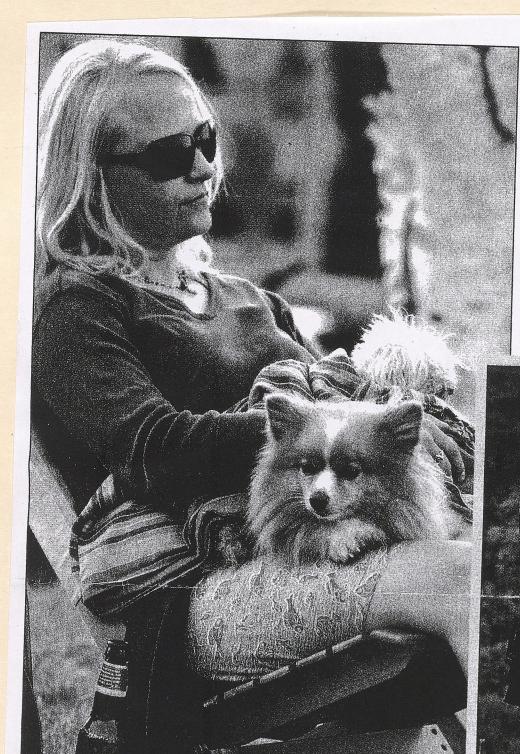
ternational shows this past year. ing one of the most hospitable sites will continue their tour which Approximately 2,500 people at- and for having the wildest crowds," concludes August 8-12 with the tended the Wahconah Park perfor- said Marchetti. "Ithink everyone was world championships in Madison, Wisconsin.

providesupport during the show, sell-p.m. at Wahconah Park. Gates open "We're hoping it will be about the ing tickets, assisting with scoring and at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$12. All seating

The committee has had to step also provides food, accommodations Advance tickets are available at up fundraising activities in recent and—if necessary—transportation City Hall, Downtown Inc., Pittsfield Visitors Center, Pasko Frame, Elm A representative from DCI also Street Hardware, WBRK, Miller's Mounting the drum corps show comes to Pittsfield to help coordi- Supply, Dalton CRA and Stevens World of Flooring.

\$9,000 this year including a fee to DCI said Marchetti. "They're great to calling 447-7763 or purchased at





Photos by Caroline Bonnivier / Berkshire Eagle Staff Above, Johanna Maxwell of Adams enjoys the sounds of Sirsy at Live on the Lake last night with her dogs Thumbelina, a 10-year-old Maltese, back, and Luna, a 4-year-old Pomeranian. Right, Sirsy performs at Live on the Lake.

Summer's last strains

Live at the Lake ends on a high note

By Benning W. De La Mater

Berkshire Eagle Staff

did the summer go? Where did our August go? Is it really time to flip the calendar to an autumn month? Although the official start of fall isn't until Sept. 23, most get that queasy feeling when August

wraps up its annual run. It was this last chance to fight it off and drink in

But what's next? "Winter," said Sue Nolli, 42, of Pittsfield. "Staying warm and paying our heating bills." As with most of the other attendees at the show PITTSFIELD last night, Nolli lamented the summer that nd just like that, August is over. Where seemed to fly by quicker than any before. Maybe it's just because she's getting older, she mused. Her boyfriend's daughter, Kayla Doyle, 10, said her summer didn't move quickly at all.

one last drop of summer that drew nearly 2,500 to Burbank Park on Onota Lake last night for the final concert of the popular Live on the Lake series.

Nolli deduced: "Summer goes by so fast for us adults because we're constantly going, working all the time. As a kid, you have nothing to do except enjoy it." That's why, for kids, it seems to last forever.

Kayla said she was looking forward to the start of school on Sept. 5 at Robert T. Capeless Elementary, though.

Enjoying the change

Nolli's uncle, Dan Marshall, 59, said he enjoys the change of seasons. "We have a little bit of everything here in the Berkshires," he said. "Four distinct seasons, that's what I like."

The three sat on a truck bed, taking in the sounds, sun and scenery. They made it to every Live on the Lake show this year and concluded that last night's show was the best.

Sirsy, an Albany-based band featuring Melanie Krahmer and Rich Lubitti, played original poprock and cover tunes until dusk fell. Krahmer drew focused stares from the crowd as she sang, pounded the drums standing up and belted out tunes on a flute — sometimes all at once.

Booming popularity

The concert series, sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union and Live 95.9 FM WBEC, just finished its fifth season. It has grown in popularity over the years and consistently draws between 2,000 and 4,000 folks.

Last night, children splashed in the waterlogged grass, mud caking their calves, while others played a pickup game of Wiffle Ball. The sun slipped behind the Taconic Mountain Range, and temperatures cooled. Vendors sold cotton candy, lemonade, sausage

CONCERT, continued on B6

The Berkshires



Jack Trainor of Pittsfield, left, and Brennan Kozlowski, also of Pittsfield, right, relax with their families on Brennan's boat as Sirsy performs during Live on the Lake last night.

Final 2006 Live at the Lake ends summer on high note

CONCERT from B1

sandwiches, hamburgers, hot

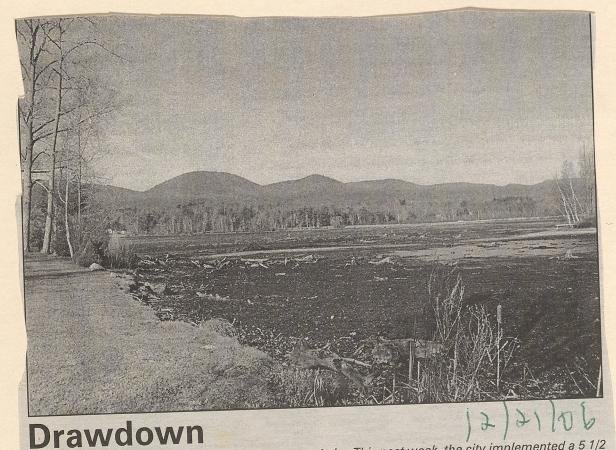
dogs, pizza and ice cream. Annie and Ed Fischer prepared burgers and sausages under a tent with a crew of workers from Bounti-Fare Restaurant in North Adams. The two said business was the band from Troy, N.Y. "But if steady for every show.

"We did really well, but I can't believe it's the last show already," Annie said. "It went by so fast. Now we have the Fall Foliage

Parade to look forward to." And changing colors, cool nights, pumpkins, apple cider and waiting for the school bus. Without a doubt, Renee Richards

said, summer left us too soon. "Who ever wants summer to end?" asked Richards, a fan of you live in the Northeast, it's a fact of life."

Benning W. De La Mater can be reached at bdelamater@berkshire eagle.com or at (413) 496-6243.



A drawdown has revealed the underbelly of Onota Lake. This past week, the city implemented a 5 1/2 foot draw down of the lake as part of a management plan. "What we're trying to do is freeze out the milfoil growing along the shallow areas of the lake," said community services director Jim McGrath. This photograph, taken from Thomas Island, shows how the water line has been impacted by the massive draw down. "This is something we hope to do every three years," said McGrath. The effectiveness of the project depends on weather conditions; officials are hoping for cold weather to freeze the weeds, without a protective coating of snow. McGrath cautioned that the low-water level may give a false impression of the lake being frozen earlier than it actually is. "The city will announced when the lake is safely frozen over," he said.

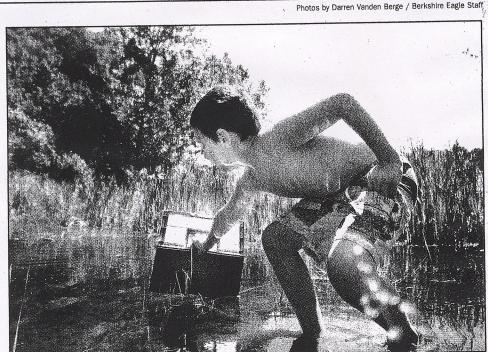
Could you dig to China?



Photos by Darren Vanden Berge / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Let's find out

Above, Timothy Alves, left, is engaged in a favorite childhood pastime, digging holes at the beach, with the help of his friends at Onota Lake in Pittsfield yesterday. At right, Kris Adornetto, 9, is out to trap frogs in a small pond near Onota yesterday. Yesterday's high temperature was 76, recorded at Pittsfield Municipal Airport, and today the forecast calls for rain.



Pittsfield:

Proposals accepted for concession stand The Department of Community Services/Parks and Recreation is seeking proposals from interested parties to operate a summer concession at the Burbank Park Bath

Interested parties should call

the Purchasing Department at City Hall to pick up a copy of the

proposal specifications. Responses

are due to the Purchasing Depart-

Information: Parks Department, (413) 499-9343.

ment by 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

the chilly



Canoe tips into Onota

Fisherman mounts rescue

By Benning W. De La Mater

PITTSFIELD — Two people were rescued from the choppy, chilly water of Lake Onota yesterday after their canoe tipped over. Josh Prudy and Trevor Goodermote of Steph-

entown, N.Y., and Wendy Gamache of Adams were paddling across Onota in a 12-foot canoe shortly after 2 when they entered the water. Gamache was wearing a flotation device; Prudy and Goodermote were not. Pittsfield Fire Deputy Chief Robert M. Czer- man Donald Zachanie of Chicopee.

winski said the wind and choppy surface contributed to the canoe's capsizing.

Czerwinski said that, when boating in a canoe to Berkshire Medical Center for a precautionary or kayak from Sept. 15 to May 1, state law checkup and were later released.

requires the use of a flotation device because of unpredictable conditions and cold water.

Czerwinski said the trio's canoe was suspect. "The longer the boat, the more stable," he said. "This was a canoe made for four passengers, but it wasn't the best of boats. It didn't look sturdy enough to hold four. All it took was one person shifting, and it was going over."

Gamache swam shore, where she was met by firefighters who escorted her to a boat ramp near Burbank Park. The two men, who were about 200 feet from shore, treaded water for about 10 minutes before they were able to wave down fisher-

Zachanie pulled his boat alongside the men and lifted them to safety. The three were brought



Sandy shores Children enjoy digging in the sand and swimming at Onota Lake in Pittsfield yesterday afternoon.

Keeping cool: Poolside to mountaintops



Mason Papisio, 7, right, gets out of the pool while Carmin Albanese, 7, jumps in to escape the heat at the YMCA pool in Pittsfield yesterday.

People seek refuge from heat



Lifeguard Arianne Stuerzel, 19, watches Onota Lake in Pittsfield yesterday afternoon.

There is no denying — it is hot, hot, hot. With little wind and high humidity, the Berkshires have been in the grip of a short heat wave, but experts are predicting relief is on the way tomorrow.

Since Sunday, rivers, lakes, pools and even mountaintops have been inundated with people seeking relief, and since yesterday, air conditioning repair technicians have also had their Joe Villani, a meteorologist with the

said the temperature peaked yesterday in the low 90s, but with the humidity hovering near 60 percent, it felt like it was in the high 90s. "The temperature is high and the humidity levels are up there, too, so it's getting pretty toasty out there right about now," he said yes-

National Weather Service in Albany, N.Y.,

terday at 2:30 p.m. Today's temperatures should stay in the midto upper-80s, with humidity remaining high. Villani said, so it will still be hot. But a cool front moving through will trigger some showers in the late afternoon and evening; by tomorrow, the temperature and humidity will both be noticeably lower, much to the relief of

residents and visitors to Berkshire County. Meanwhile, people have been seeking out ways to keep cool.

"Just from the gate receipts, I know there are a lot of people coming in, basking in the

How hot is it?

The following is a look at the high and low temeratures recorded in degrees at Pittsfield Municipal

mport.		
	High	Low
aturday:	82 degrees	61 degrees
unday:	87	64
esterday:	87	64
Today:	91	57

If you think it's lear here:

■ Death Valley, Calif., had a high of 125 degrees Las Vegas had a high of 112 degrees ■ Wichita, Kan., had a high of 108 degrees Fresno, Calif., had a high of 108 degrees ■ Dallas-Fort Worth had a high of 105 degrees

sun and cooling off in the water," said Jean Neal, co-manager of Historic Valley Campground and Windsor Lake in North

Sunday, she said, 112 cars came through the gate, which compares with 49 cars on

"And even today [Monday], although I don't

DUALII MIASI

have a count yet, there are a lot of cars in **HEAT**, continued on A4

'Live on the Lake concert series set

kicks off tomorrow night, has been Acts; and Aug. 30. Sirsy. ing July and August, from 6 to 8 law enforcement.

Aug. 11, at Burbank Park. There will be a full day of supervised activities including sports, arts/crafts and more. There will also be swimming at the public beach where lifeguards are stationed. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The three playground program sites (the Common, Clapp, and Pitt Park) will be closed on these Fridays. Children are welcome at the Controy

Pittsfield: 3496

Lake days planned

today and Aug. 11

The Parks and Recreation Depart-

ment's Summer Playground Program

is sponsoring two lake days today and

Pavilion beginning at 9 a.m. For more information: Parks Department at (413) 499-9343.

PITTSFIELD — The summer Aug. 2, Albert Cummings Blues lineup for the "Live on the Lake" Band; Aug. 9, Fly By Night; Aug. community concert series, which 16, The Fryalators; Aug. 23, Smart

announced by Greylock Federal With typical weekly attendance Credit Union and Live 95.9 FM at the shows surpassing 2,500, the WBEC. For the fifth consecutive City of Pittsfield is partnering with season, the concerts will be VOX Radio and Greylock to prooffered Wednesday evenings dur- vide extra parking capacity and

p.m., at Burbank Park on Onota Alcohol is strictly forbidden in city parks at all times and, there-"Live on the Lake is a great fore, at the concerts, according to venue for families and friends to Police Chief Anthony Riello. spend time together in a beautiful Police will be patrolling the park

outdoor setting, enjoying terrific to enforce this rule, he said. music," said Angelo Stracuzzi, Additional parking is available president of Greylock Federal. at Vin Hebert Boulevard and a The series will feature an eclec-shuttle service is offered for peotic assortment of musical styles ple parking at Taconic High ranging from rock and roll to big School. Each week, the first 100 band and soul, according to Peter riders on the shuttle service will receive a coupon for free ice The Live on the Lake schedule cream, courtesy of the city's Parks is: July 5, PIMP; July 12, Lipstick Department. The shuttle holds 15 'N' Leather; July 19, Reverend Tor Band; July 26, Sounds of Sinatra; 8:30 p.m.





A rockin' good time

Above, a huge crowd gathered onshore and off to listen to Pimp in Burbank Park on Pittsfield's Onota Lake during Live on the Lake last night. Right, Rachel Tynan, 7, dances with her mother, Sue. For the fifth

consecutive season, the concerts will be offered on Wednesday evenings during July and August from 6 to 8 p.m.

The upcoming Live on the Lake schedule is:

July 12, Lipstick 'N' Leather; ■ July 19, Reverend Tor Band;

July 26, Sounds of

Sinatra; Aug. 2, Albert

Cummings Blues Band; Aug. 9, Fly By Night; ■ Aug. 16, The

Fryalators; Aug. 23, Smart Acts; Aug. 30, Sirsy.



Humane society schedules benefit

Barry of Live 95.9.

at Burbank Park on Onota Lake on Briggs at 447-7878 ext. 31

walk begins at 10 a.m. The event will ing refuge for homeless animals in Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. take place rain or shine. Pledge forms can be picked up at the shelter located at 214 Barker Road. All participants will receive giveaways based on the dollar amount raised. Prizes will be awarded to the team and individual who raise the most money.

Related activities include the "Blessing of the Animals" before the start of the walk, a state police canine demonstration and AKC Canine Good Citizen testing.

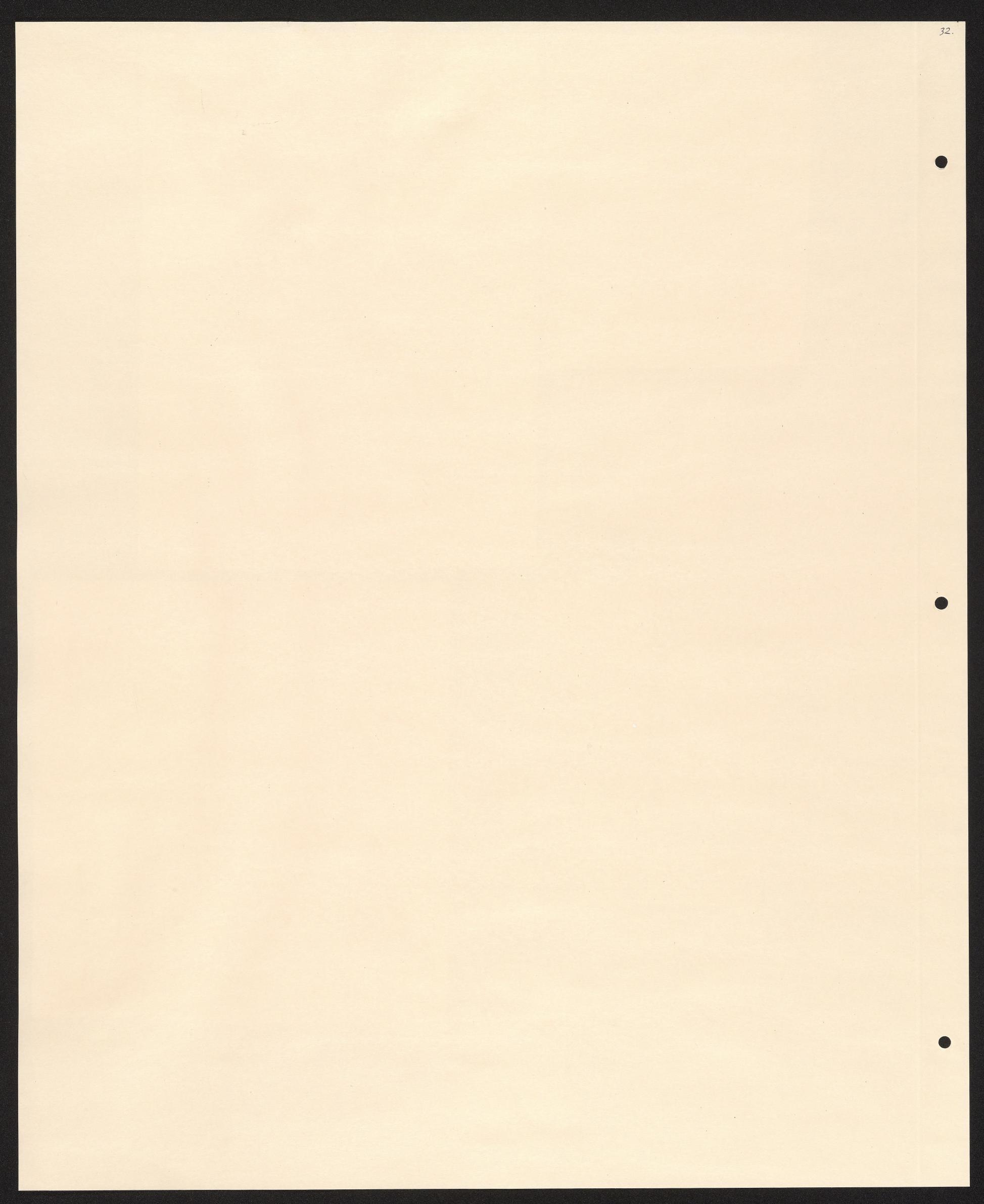
A water rescue demonstration, a pet therapy presentation and a series of contests are also planned. The "Bark in the Park" dog walk

The Berkshire Humane Society will is open to the public. People with or Berkshire County, free educational be hold its 12th annual "Bark in the without dogs are invited to attend. programs for children and a pet-food

Park" dog walk and canine contest For more information call Diane bank for economically distressed pet owners. The shelter is open Tuesdays The Berkshire Humane Society is - Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;, Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the an open admission shelter, provid- Thursday evenings 5 to 8 p.m.; and

Pittsfield: Lake Day tomorrow at Burbank Park

The Parks and Recreation Department has announced that the Summer Playground Program is sponsoring a Lake Day tomorrow at Burbank Park. There will be a full day of supervised activities, including sports, arts/crafts and a special magic show by Bowie the Clown. There will also be swimming at the public beach, where lifeguards are stationed. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The three playground sites (the Common, and Clapp and Pitt Parks) will be closed tomorrow and children should come to the Controy Pavilion instead of the park sites.



Hope lies in freezing weeds

Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Robert W. Race and since the 1940s. James McGrath have a plot to rid Onota

the Lake Onota Preservation Association, and McGrath, director of parks and recre- ecosystem, affecting all forms of aquatic can rob oxygen from the water, increase ation for Pittsfield, must lower the water species, both plant and animal.

of water weed — Eurasian milfoil, a noto- considered to be perhaps the most prob-

rious culprit that has been choking lakes lematic water plant that can drastically alter and rivers throughout the United States a body of water's ecology. It forms dense

Lake of a pervasive enemy: They are going or row through it," Race said. "It creates a even irrigation by clogging water intakes. mat that is almost impenetrable. It's even The sheer mass of plants can cause But to do so, Race, who is president of hard to drive a motor boat through it." It also has a dramatic effect on the lake's good habitat for mosquitoes. Milfoil mats

According to information posted on the other more beneficial plants. Milfoil The enemy is a foreign invasive species University of Maine's Web site, milfoil is

mats of vegetation that interfere with recre-"You can't swim, paddle, water-ski, sail ational activities, power generation and

flooding, and the stagnant mats can create the sedimentation rate and shade out

LAKE, continued on A4



water plant. Darren Vanden Berge / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Wayne Perry of Rain for Rent works on sections of pipe to help drain Onota Lake, while **David Bowler** looks on. The lake will be drained to help kill milfoil, a problematic

Weeds targeted in lake freeze LAKE from A1

reproduces rapidly and can infest

an entire lake within two years. "It's choking out all the good weeds, it's a hazard to boaters, and it's not fun to swim in," McGrath said. "It also takes oxygen from other species and throws off the

balance of the lake." So the city is spending about \$24,500 to install some 12-inch pipes from the lake bottom leading over the dam in addition to the 24-inch pipe in the base of the dam. With both of them in operation, it should take a couple of weeks to draw down the water level enough to expose roughly 250 acres of shoreline, or nearly a third of the lake's surface, which is where most of the milfoil thrives.

Once exposed, the theory goes, the shoreline will freeze throughout the winter months, killing the weed in those areas of the lake and drastically reducing its foothold on the ecosystem.

But if it snows too much before the ground freezes, the snow acts as an insulator and could hamper the freeze on some of the shoreline.

"So, we're hoping for freezing weather without snow," Race said. The process won't completely eradicate the weed, but because it doesn't grow well in deeper water, and much of the shallows will be exposed to the frosty weather, lake lovers are hopeful.

Race noted that this has been an ongoing battle. In 1999, the Lake Onota Preservation Association tried using chemical warfare against the weeds. And it worked - for a while. But the milfoil returned with a vengeance. Association volunteers have even been known to pull out the weeds by hand.

But lake management consultants have highly recommended drawing down the water level to freeze the weed.

The challenge has been the limited capacity of the drainage pipe in the dam. At 24 inches, it can't draw down the lake fast enough before a moderate rainfall brings it back up again. They are trying to find grant money to install more drainage capacity.

al News

The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, November 20, 2006 — A3

Zebra mussels eat food supply

Channel. By the end of that year, sure to such pollutants as PCBs. isolated pockets of zebra mussels When zebra mussels coat beaches, were being found from their sharp edges can cut swim-Minneapolis to St. Louis. They mers' feet. have been discovered in lakes and rivers in 21 states, from Vermont from different regions, especially west to Oklahoma and as far south New York state," McGrath said. "I as the Gulf Coast.

Not here yet

In this region, zebra mussels "liberation" of zebra mussels into have been found in Lake Cham- any state body of water. plain, in Saratoga Lake, and in the Twin Lakes and Candlewood Lake in Connecticut. Dailey said the Twin Lakes are in Canaan, a few Lake Onota association to discuss miles south of the Massachusetts the potential problems surroundborder in Sheffield.

"We haven't found zebra mus-Community Services James Mc-Grath, who also serves as Pittsfield's harbor master. "I say 'yet,' because there is the probability that at some time in the future, we will find them."

to be a health hazard because what aware of the problem, so that good com or at (413) 496-6224.

they filter from the water can increase human and wildlife expo-

"We have boats coming here think that it's only a matter of time. We're trying to be pre-emptive." In New York, a law prohibits the

Steps being taken

McGrath met recently with the ing zebra mussels. He said the city is preparing an education program sels here yet," said Director of to warn boat owners of the problems associated with them.

> Race said the association has discussed setting up a boat wash to clean the hulls of vessels that come here from other lakes, and trying to conduct boat inspec-

Besides clogging pipes, zebra "I think it's important to do that, people can prevent it from hapmussels also eat the microscopic but I doubt if it will solve the probfood supply in lakes and rivers on lem, just because there are so many which fish feed. They increase boats that are coming here," he said. water clarity, but also are believed "All we can do is make people at tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.

Preventing zebra mussels

1. When transporting boats, thoroughly flush hulls, outdrive units, etc. with hot water before leaving infested areas. 2. Thoroughly inspect your boat's hull, including all parts exposed to infected waters.

3. Do not transport leftover bait from infested waterways or dump live fish from one body of water into another.

4. Remove plants and animals from boats, trailers and accessory equipment before leaving the water access area.

5. Thoroughly dry boats and trailers in the sun for three days, if possible, before transporting them to other waterways. 6. For boats that remain on the water, avoid leaving outdrive in the down position.

Source: University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin sea grant programs.

pening," he added.

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached

On the Web: www.BerkshireEagle.com

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Monday, November 20, 2006

Barnaclelike shellfish may endanger our waters



This is a close-up of zebra mussels that have encrusted a boat that arrived recently in Pittsfield. The boat never made it to Onota Lake.

By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — They attach them- tough.' ments in which they live.

ident of the association, said. "They "There were huge colonies of them," transoceanic ships discharged ballast

have to be imported somehow. Attempting to keep them out is pretty

selves to hard surfaces, reproduce like Those fears were heightened recent- zebra mussels, A3 crazy and alter the freshwater environ- ly when the Onota Boat Livery received a 22-foot pontoon boat from sing up with what's going on." Zebra mussels, a barnaclelike shell- Saratoga, N.Y., whose hull was covered fish, have spread rapidly through lakes with zebra mussels. The livery provides and rivers in the eastern United States winter storage for boats, so there is no European waterways for nearly 200 They spread through inland waters as since they were discovered in the Great chance the vessel will be put into the years, according to information from larvae transported in water or as adults Lakes in 1988, and members of the water. But livery owner Thomas Dailey studies that have been conducted by attached to boat hulls. By 1992, they Lake Onota Preservation Association said the boat's owner, who had kept the University of Minnesota. believe it could be only a matter of time craft in Saratoga Lake, didn't realize. It is believed that zebra mussels River basin from Lake Michigan via that the vessel's hull was coated with found their way to North America in the Chicago Sanitary Shipping

How to prevent the spread of

Russia, near the Caspian Sea, and have heating because their water inlets were been found in western and central clogged with zebra mussels.

"That's the fear," Robert Race, pres- the mussels until he brought it here. the mid-1980s when one or more

Dailey said. "You water into Lake St. Clair, which conwould think peo- nects Lake Erie with Lake Huron. They ple would become apparently found the environment to aware of this. ... their liking because, within one year,

They're not keep- they had colonized every firm object in Lake Erie. Boaters in lakes St. Clair • Zebra mussels are native to western and Erie have reported engines over-

had made their way into the Mississippi

ZEBRA, continued on A3

Federal funds sought for dam repair

By Tony Dobrowolski Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Community De-Springside Park, according to depart- over the dam and out of the park. ment Director Deanna L. Ruffer.

pair at about \$10,000, Ruffer said. "It directly behind the dam. might be in that range," she added.

adjacent to the Springside Avenue side activity this summer stepped into the the city plans to approach the Morningof Pittsfield's largest park, has sprung a pond wearing high boots and sank up to side Initiative about using some of its leak. That prevents a fountain, which his buttocks, Garivaltis said. was paid for with federal Community The pond originally served as a chil- funding to pay for the repairs.

Development Block Grant funding, from dren's wading pool. operating, Ruffer said.

Also, it has created a buildup of sedibeen built up."

An adult offender who helped clean estimates for the dam's repair.

Parks Commission Chairman Charles is to fix up the pond," Garivaltis said. borhood initiative has identified the velopment Department is looking into P. Garivaltis said the leak also has "The pond is a hazard. If you step off structure as a neighborhood asset, Rufusing federal funds to fix the dam at changed the direction of water that flows into the water, you can go down two, fer said. three or four feet with the mud that has The Morningside Initiative has

A recent feasibility study put the rement in the pond, which is located Ruffer has asked Community Services neighborhood activity, she added. Director James McGrath to obtain cost

The dam, located in front of a pond up the pond area as a community service Once that has been done, Ruffer said said.

The dam is eligible for Morningside's "If we fix the dam, the next logical step block grant funding because the neigh-

\$40,000 in block grant funds set aside for

"The park and the pond are an important neighborhood resource," Ruffer

Tony Dobrowolski can be reached at Community Development Block Grant tdobrowolski@berkshireeagle.com or at (413) 496-6224.

